



Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

LWN

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Thursday, August 20th 2015

■ **CARNIVAL SALUTE:** The Carnival Pioneers Community Day on Portobello Green on Sunday proved an opportunity for residents and visitors to come and celebrate with some of the original Notting Hill Carnival pioneers. The main event, led by Les Palmer, took place on the Green from noon to 6pm, with an after party 'lime' at The Tabernacle until 10pm. This year's theme was Founding Mothers – remembering the women pioneers who gave birth to and nurtured Notting Hill Carnival, including Rhaune Laslett, Merle Major, Claire Holder, Claudia Jones and Silma Faustine.

MORE PICTURES, SEE PAGE 4



Cheers! Promise to save the KPH

Owner surprises iconic pub's campaigners

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PORTOBELLO'S landmark KPH pub is to STAY a pub, the owner has revealed.

In a surprise announcement that may cheer the community, property developer Steven Archer has allayed local fears that the historic 150-year-old bar would be closed and turned into an estate agent's.

"I'm not closing down The KPH. The council wants it to stay a pub and so do I," said Mr Archer, whose company SWA Developments has been locked in a long legal fight for vacant possession with the current leaseholder Patrick Burke and manager Vince Power.

The legal tussle – which Mr Archer revealed has cost more than £600,000 – was ended last month when a judge ruled in his favour. Although the current KPH team are appealing, Mr Archer is confident of win-

By Geoff Baker
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ning and he plans to start re-decorating and putting in a new management team next month.

"I'm planning a major refurbishment of both the outside and inside of the pub. I may move the bar back away from the centre of the room and move the kitchen and toilets into the basement, to give it much more room and make it a

really cool drinking establishment," he said.

Mr Archer, who bought the property in 2013, said he may seek planning permission to turn the upper floors of The KPH into residential flats or a restaurant and boutique hotel, but he completely dismissed alarm that the pub would close and an estate agent's would be moving in.

"I have had lots of offers on the building, including an offer of a lot of money from an estate agent, but it's a lovely property and I'm going to keep it running as a pub. I have a new manager lined up and the new KPH could be re-opened in mid-September."

The original Kensington Park Hotel was built in 1860, when there were still hayfields beyond the railway bridge. In the forties and fifties it was the local of Timothy Evans, who was wrongfully executed – and



■ **SAVED:** The KPH pub.

INSIDE

Councillors demand U-turn on doomed community stables

KENSINGTON and Chelsea councillors have slammed The Westway Trust for evicting Westway Stables owner Sarah Tuvey and have called for a climb down to let her stay and improve the horse riding centre.

In a robust letter to this newspaper, Notting Dale councillors Judith Blakeman, Robert Atkinson and Beinazir Lasharie say there was "no good reason" for the Trust to end Ms Tuvey's lease after her 25 years of teaching horse riding to all members of the community.

The councillors praise Ms Tuvey for the benefits she has given to many disadvantaged riders and say that she is best placed to now develop the stables into a much bigger riding facility.

"Evicting Sarah and her horses is a retrograde step. She has provided a popular and valuable facility and her commitment should be recognised and acknowledged," say the councillors.

LETTERS, SEE PAGE 7

Kensington students celebrate top grades



PAGE 3

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PLAN TO CREATE COMMUNITY GREEN HAVENS IS A SUCCESS, NATURALLY!

Pick a pocket and enjoy the great outdoors

A GREEN scheme launched by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson to create 100 new pocket parks in the capital has been so successful there are plans to roll it out across the country.

The Mayor this week confirmed he has delivered his manifesto pledge to create 100 rejuvenated spaces as part of his pocket parks programme in 26 London boroughs.

From a rain garden in Vauxhall to a dinosaur playground in Hornsey and edible gardens along a south London bus route, more than 25 hectares of community land across the capital have been converted into new enhanced green areas, thanks to £2million of funding from the Mayor. This was match-funded from the boroughs, as well as grants from businesses and trusts.

The programme to transform under-used urban spaces across the city into mini oases for Londoners to enjoy has been a roaring success and proposals to develop it nationwide are being considered by the government.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "From what started as a green shoot in 2012, dozens of glorious spaces have sprouted up across almost every corner of the capital, offering



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE

an oasis of calm from the hustle and bustle of city life. They may have been pocket-sized pieces of previously forgotten land, but they pack a real punch in what they now offer local people, thousands of whom have given up their time to make the capital greener and more resilient. It really underlines London's status as one of the greenest world cities."

To celebrate the success of the programme, there is a free exhibition at City Hall, which runs to 28 August and shares the stories and experiences of 11 people who helped create pocket park projects across London.

Bridget and Menna Hyrd, who both helped recreate Nunhead Green in Southwark, which included a popular children's play area, said: "This pocket park has made the place look so much

nicer and made people feel much happier about where they live. It's a place to bump into families; they use it as a meeting place. We just didn't have that before. It's given Nunhead a bit of a centre, a bit of a heart."

A small area in Churchward House, Lambeth, received funding to install planters to compliment a nearby area planted with street trees, which has dramatically changed an area previously just a walkway between houses.

Jenny Jefferies, of Churchward House, helped on the project. She said: "Gardens like these give everyone such a lift and make them feel good. I think there is a basic need to be among green things. People living in cities have fewer opportunities to be among plants, trees and flowers."

"By making more gardens and planted trees, we are increasing everyone's day-to-day contact with nature. It is relaxing and important to be in the open air in a garden or park, and it is certainly good for our mental wellbeing."

Pocket parks are part of the Mayor's wider plans to maintain London's status as one of the greenest and leafiest cities. He has also delivered 20,000 Street Trees along London's most congested roads and funds tree and woodland

projects via the Community Grant Scheme, which is engaging communities and volunteers across London. The Mayor leads the RE:LEAF partnership of organisations and through this partnership has delivered a range of projects, including planting 10,000 trees in Ealing last December.

■ Pocket parks are part of the Mayor's London Great Outdoors programme to transform the public places we live in – high streets, town centres, parks, rivers and pathways – into vibrant, loved places within our city. Since the programme began in 2009, over £250m has been invested in over 78 projects, divided into two key areas – better green and water spaces and better streets.

This has included the transformation of Burgess Park, the restoration of rivers in parks in Barking, Croydon and Tottenham and the planting of 20,000 street trees across the city.

■ A new campaign has been launched to promote London Great Outdoors, which gives Londoners the opportunity to go online and find out more improvements to more than 200 public spaces. These areas have been plotted on a new, easy to use interactive map at www.london.gov.uk/outdoors



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A-team congratulated on 'fantastic' exam results

● By **GEOFF BAKER**

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON and Chelsea's education chief has praised the borough's students and teachers for achieving "fantastic" A-level results.

Overall the Royal Borough pupils were well above the national average with 13 per cent gaining A* (the national average is eight per cent), 45 per cent gaining A* and A grades (national average 26 per cent), 76 per cent A* to B (national average 53 per cent) and 92 per cent A* to C (national average 77 per cent).

Councillor Emma Will, Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "This is a fantastic set of results with some really wonderful individual achievements amongst them. They are testament to the dedication and professionalism of the teachers and the hard work of the students. I wish all the students leaving our schools to go on to university, or their first jobs, the very best of luck in the future."

It was good news for students at Holland Park whose results far exceeded national averages for a fifth consecutive year. Passes at grades A* to B were 73 per cent, passes at A* were 12 per cent and 93 per cent of students achieved grades A* to C.

Three of the school's students are Oxbridge-bound on the back of these results. One, Violet Smart, has been at the school from the age of 11 and has long been recognised as a student of remarkable ability.

Her four A*s (in Geography, English, Design and Religious Studies) are all the more impressive given that Violet taught herself religious studies and has now chosen to read Theology and Philosophy at Christ Church College, Oxford.

Omar Sabbagh, who is off to read Law at Cambridge, achieved As and A*s in all of his subjects: Mathematics, English and Religious Studies and his teachers at Holland Park are confident that he will be a formidable force at the bar in years to come.

Future success seems likely as this year students taking AS exams have



■ **PASS MASTERS:** Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School students.

broken all records with more than 60 per cent achieving an A to B grade.

Commenting on Holland Park School's results Deputy Head, Nicholas Robson, said: "Students have achieved superbly well this year, winning enviable university places and scoring record-breaking grades. We are delighted for their well-deserved success and are pleased to be sending them into the world eminently qualified!"

Last week's results reveal another year of outstanding success for A-level pupils at Cardinal Vaughan, with the school retaining its title as one of the highest attaining comprehensives

in the country and nine pupils heading off to study at either Oxford or Cambridge.

Headmaster, Paul Stubbings, said: "I am delighted that our wonderful staff and pupils have once again produced the goods: not only are the results top class, but we are bucking national trends and going from strength to strength."

One pupil, Thomas King, did exceptionally well, achieving five A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. He said: "I am overjoyed with the results and am really looking forward to joining Oxford in October where I

will be reading medicine. I can't wait!"

Head Girl, Harriet Lea, said: "I am really pleased I got my place at Cambridge to study history. It's been such a great two years and I'll really miss everyone at the Vaughan."

A-level pupils at The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School have achieved double the national average of grades at A*, with 87 per cent receiving grades marked A* to B.

Chelsea Academy is also celebrating after students achieved its best results with 53 per cent of grades at A* to B. The academy returned particularly excellent results in English, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and languages.

Chelsea Academy is funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Church of England; it specialises in science and a number of this year's highest performing students will now go on to study at prestigious Russell Group universities.

Notable performances include: Omar Allagbani, Motadi Elamim and Toufikul Haq who will all read engineering at UCL; Laura Butler who will read Mathematics at Leeds; Koroush Abbasi who will read Economics at Surrey; Iman Omar who will read Biomedical Science at King's College; Lisia Scocuzza will read French and Spanish, also at King's College and Jagoda Szczesna will study Art at Central St Martins.

Matt Williams, Principal of Chelsea Academy, said: "I am delighted with the outstanding success of our students' A-level results. The work that the students and staff have put in over the past two years has paid off with the best set of A-level results we have seen at Chelsea Academy."

"I am particularly pleased with the number of students that have achieved top grades and are now prepared to succeed at university. These results show that Chelsea Academy is an outstanding place to come and learn at post-16 level, especially for those students interested in languages and the science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. "Many congratulations to all of the students celebrating today and a huge thank you to our talented staff for the support and encouragement they have given all of our students".



■ **GREAT GRADES:** Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School students.

...and Boris says do an apprenticeship next

AS thousands of young Londoners with new A-level results are applying for university places this week, the Mayor of London is pushing for them to consider trying for an apprenticeship instead.

Mayor Boris Johnson is urging school-leavers to consider the benefits of getting an early foot on the jobs ladder and money in their pockets – instead of taking a £27,000 student loan to cover three years at university.

"The Mayor of London is reminding young Londoners that an apprenticeship could potentially be a fantastic first step in their career," said a spokesman. "Apprenticeships allow

young Londoners to get into the labour market from day one and allow them to participate in London's economic success, gaining a qualification while being paid and opening pathways into numerous and diverse careers.

"More and more specialised and highly skilled apprenticeships are being offered each year in areas such as legal services, banking and engineering. Degree-level apprenticeships are already available in the Automotive and Digital industries and the Government is committed to rolling out many more degree apprenticeships, allowing young people to com-

bine the benefits of a world-class degree with an 'earn while you learn' apprenticeship."

The Mayor said: "I would like to see as many young Londoners as possible getting onto the first rung of the career ladder by signing up for an apprenticeship programme. I urge each and every one of you clutching an A-level results statement to consider a path that will equip you with the skills and opportunities to excel."

The Mayor's spokesman added: "As well as being a great career option for thousands of young Londoners, apprenticeships are proving to help London's businesses and economy to

grow. They allow businesses to fill skills gaps with a motivated and qualified workforce, reduce training and recruitment costs, increase staff retention and productivity, improve customer service results, and provide financial return on investment."

The Mayor's Ambassador for Training and Enterprise, Tim Campbell, said: "Apprentices are hard-working, motivated people with the courage to find ways of learning new skills and earning money at the same time. Apprenticeships should be seen as an investment by employers. Where that investment is nurtured, the returns to the businesses are tremendous."

Owner pledges that KPH will remain a pub

FROM PAGE 1

later pardoned – for the murder of his wife and child, crimes later attributed to another pub regular, the serial killer John Christie. The KPH features in the movie 10 Rillington Place that Richard Attenborough and John Hurt made about the infamous miscarriage of justice.

Fears that The KPH would be closed down caused outcry from hundreds of residents including rock star Cerys Matthews and former Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP, along with CAMRA and the Portobello Café Society.

Residents formed an action group, KPH United, and pressured Kensington and Chelsea Council to weigh in to block the feared change of use of one of West London's favourite pubs by making it an Asset of Community Value.

It is understood that Mr Archer has also had approaches from Fullers and Youngs regarding the property.

"I'm fielding interests at the moment, I want to see it grow organically into something fabulous. It may be that there is interest from a leisure operation, for possibly a boutique hotel and a restaurant upstairs, but the ground floor will definitely remain a pub. I live in the area and frankly it was not a nice option to have an estate agent's or a coffee shop put in there."

Mr Archer said the legal fight over the future of the pub had been "a very stressful two years".

KPH United campaigners claimed that the two years of litigation had cost £200,000, but Mr Archer said "it has cost me double that and I believe the other side must be in for around about £200,000; nobody wins in these situations and it has been a very expensive and long trial for both sides."

Unless Mr Power's side wins the appeal, Mr Archer's team is set to move in to start refurbishing The KPH from September 5.

Young people's summer fun

FOOTBALL, filmmaking, kayaking, keep fit, carnival arts and scriptwriting are just some of the many free and low-cost activities on offer to young people during the summer holidays.

The events are part of the Summer in the City programme which features hundreds of activities on offer across central and west London to engage and entertain children, young people and their families.

Organised by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham Council and Westminster City Council, the programme also includes activities for children with disabilities and specific activities for young carers, aged from five to 19 years, whose lives can be significantly affected by caring for a family member.

For more information on what is on offer you can go to the website www.mysummerinthecity.org.uk or pick up a copy of the Summer in the City brochure from your local library, council buildings, children's centres and youth clubs.

Public warned: giving money to beggars is no help to them at all

KIND-HEARTED Kensington and Chelsea people who give money to the borough's beggars are to be warned that they could actually be helping to kill them.

Kensington and Chelsea Council is launching a hard-hitting campaign asking visitors and residents not to give money to beggars as hand-outs only fund addiction.

The council says many of those begging use the money to pay for their drug and alcohol habits rather than use it to buy food or to accommodation.

"Only a small minority of the most prolific beggars in Kensington and Chelsea are actually homeless," said a spokesman. "Rather than helping them you could be contributing to their early death.

"Most have accommodation available to them either within the borough or elsewhere in London. If someone is homeless the council's outreach team can identify options available to them.

"This can include a referral to a hostel – there are 169 places in the borough – or being helped

By Geoff Baker

by the No Second Night Out scheme which provides somewhere to stay or helping someone back to the area they are from."

Commenting on the launch, Cllr Joanna Gardner, said: "The council and police work together to combat begging and offer help to those in genuine need, including advice on where to go to combat addiction and places to obtain accommodation."

Hard-hitting adverts will be displayed at bus stops and on phone boxes for two weeks at key areas in the borough where it is known begging takes place.

If residents are concerned for someone because you think they are sleeping rough contact the Streetlink helpline on 0300 500 0914 or you can go to the website www.streetlink.org.uk

Drug and alcohol services available in the borough are:

■ Alcohol Resource Centre – information, support and advice to people with alcohol problems
■ KC North Hub – treatment

and recovery activities for people with drug and alcohol problems

■ Kensington and Chelsea Community Assessment and Primary Service – health care and treatment for people with drug and alcohol problems.

"The council works in partnership with the police to deal with begging, two police officers attached to Street Population Outreach Team regularly patrol the borough and warn persistent beggars. If people are begging advice can be given about drug and alcohol treatment programmes and services," said the spokesman.

"Members of the public who do want to help the homeless we would suggest that they give their money to organisations such as homeless charities and drug and alcohol services that can help, such as St Mungo's Broadway, Look Ahead Housing and Care and No Second Night Out, which focuses on helping those who find themselves rough sleeping on the streets of London for the first time."



HAPPY DAYS: Tributes were paid to some of the women who helped create the Notting Hill Carnival when more than 1,200 local people and visitors – and a cricketing legend – celebrated the Carnival Pioneers Community Day on Sunday. The event, led by Les Palmer and supported by Westway Trust and the Carnival Village Trust, took place on Portobello Green. This year's theme was **Founding Mothers** – remembering the women pioneers who gave birth to and nurtured Notting Hill Carnival, including Rhaine Laslett, Merle Major, Claire Holder, Claudia Jones and Silma Faustine. Flowers were presented to Claudette Philips' daughter and Merle Major's daughter Sherma for their mother's contribution to Carnival. Performers included the Hardway Band, Kaiso Lime Kings, Redz Richardson, Carlene Etienne, Youth Steel Band, Soca Singers, with DJ Soca Massive, plus special guests Papa Weazel & DJ Dukes.



NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

MOST of us have a deep-rooted instinct to want to help someone in need.

That's a very good thing and a cornerstone of our individual moral instincts. The council has also developed many excellent services and has a large number of staff devoted to ensuring that the most vulnerable people get the help they need.

So it may come as a bit of a shock to some when we embark on a campaign that seems to say don't be a Good Samaritan. But our anti-begging campaign is really asking people to help in a different way, and with good reason.

The fact is that begging is a pretty big issue here in the borough. We're a lucrative patch and typically you will find people begging on Kensington High Street, King's Road, Gloucester Road, Knightsbridge and South Kensington (Exhibition Road).

Many will say they want money for food or for accommodation for the night but all the experience of the council's Street Population Outreach Team, the local police and many charities that work with the homeless is that a high percentage of those begging use the money to fund their drug and alcohol habits and already have a roof over their head.

If you really want to help it is far better to give your money to the right charity.

There are many excellent organisations that do fantastic work and can help people get their lives back together. Specialist help can be

given to work to overcome alcohol and drug addictions, find accommodation and access employment-based training. It's these organisations that really need your support.

You may have seen our hard-hitting posters on bus shelters, telephone boxes and in council buildings and libraries. This poster campaign highlights how begging differs from homelessness and that many beggars do have accommodation.

If someone is street homeless, the council's outreach workers can identify options available to them. This can include a referral to a hostel, advice about making a housing application or reconnection to an area where they have a local connection (either in the UK or abroad). There are also a number of excellent drug and alcohol treatment services available in the borough.

We believe that if people are unable to fund their drug and alcohol habit through begging they are more likely to access these services and we will support them to do so.

So, don't be persuaded to give to street beggars, the truth is your money won't really be helping them. If you are concerned about someone you see on the street you can call our Street Population Outreach Team on 020 7341 5210 or call Streetlink, a national service, on 0300 500 0914.

There is more information on our website and a list of some organisations working with homeless people in the borough at www.rbkc.gov.uk/alternativegiving

“If you really want to help it is far better to give your money to the right charity”

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Safer capital but exodus looms

NEW crime figures reveal visitors to the West End have never had it so safe – but half of the residents of the capital are saying: “I’m a Londoner, get me out of here!”

Although official figures now place London as one of the world’s safest cities – ahead of Paris, New York and Beijing – almost 50 per cent of Londoners feel that their home town has become too expensive to live in and they want to move up North.

The Mayor’s Office has announced that crime in London continues to drop at a greater rate than in England and Wales as a whole, down 18 per cent since Mayor Boris Johnson took office.

“Studies show that London is one of the safest holiday or business destination in the world,” said a Mayor’s spokesman. “In the West End alone, all crime in the area has fallen by 34 per cent; theft has fallen by 49.2 per cent over the last year, and robbery has decreased by 46.8 per cent.

But although Londoners are now safer, half of the city’s population still want to pack their bags. A new survey into the UK’s best-loved cities by online retailers Zespoke has revealed that 49.2 per cent of Londoners would much rather live somewhere else.

“This was a most surprising outcome of our study and a result that sparks speculation as to whether the capital is still the dream destination it once was,”

● By LWN reporter GEOFF BAKER

said a Zespoke spokesman.

“With through-the-roof rent prices exacerbating the housing affordability gap, large numbers of born-and-bred Londoners are now being priced out of the city – and the results of the survey suggest that many London locals aren’t happy to call the capital their home anymore.”

But Londoners dreaming of making a new home far away don’t want to move out for a quieter life in the sticks – most of them want to uproot and head for the new “Northern powerhouse”.

When asked where they would rather be than the capital, 10.7 per cent said Glasgow, 10.7 per cent said Manchester, 9.8 per cent said Edinburgh, 6.6 per cent said Newcastle and 3.7 per cent said Belfast.

Only 1.2 per cent said they would like to live in Brighton and less than one per cent favoured Norwich.

But Londoners who want to stay put will be pleased to hear that the Mayor has confirmed London’s position as one of the safest big cities to visit in the world.

Mr Johnson made the announcement when welcoming news that a service funded through the Mayor’s Office for Policing And Crime, is to be located in Leicester Square to provide assistance to the “very small number” of the capital’s 18 million visitors who become victims of crime.

The International Visitors Victim Service is the first of its kind in the UK, and with almost £100,000 of support from the Mayor’s Office for Policing And Crime, is now operating across five central London boroughs.

“The specialised team will be available through a mobile police kiosk in the West End ‘Impact Zone’, an area across Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus in which the Metropolitan Police already have a huge presence, to help foreign visitors in the unlikely event they fall victim to thieves or any other crime,” said a spokesman.

“They offer free emotional and practical support including help with loss of travel documents, accommodation, medical treatment, accessing funds and translator services. The support service staff join a team of 100 dedicated officers who patrol the West End area day and night in London’s first ‘Impact Zone’, which offers easily accessible help and support for visitors, while aiding crime prevention.

“The service is now celebrating its first anniversary and it has already proved a great success, with overall crime in the area reduced by 34 per cent over the last year.

Mr Johnson said: “London is the greatest, and one of the safest, big cities on earth and we want to ensure it remains the very best visitor destination in the world.

“Our police officers do a fantastic job cracking down on crime and keeping our busiest



■ BOAST: Boris Johnson.

tourist hubs trouble free. And this new service will offer an invaluable extra safety net for all of our international visitors, so they can get on and enjoy everything London has to offer.”

West End Police Inspector Matt Butterworth said: “Although crime continues to fall and Westminster is an extremely safe place to visit, we are not complacent. The partnership between us will enable those visitors to the West End who have

been unfortunate to become a victim of crime to be supported and advised across a range of services according to their needs making this experience more positive for them.”

Following the successful introduction of the visitors victim scheme across Westminster, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Southwark and Camden, there are now plans to extend it to more boroughs across the capital.



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College’s students celebrate

HUNDREDS of Westminster Kingsway College students are celebrating a successful year for the London teaching centre.

Approximately 500 A-Level students and 1550 BTEC, UAL and Access to HE students successfully completed their courses and will now be going on to top-rated universities across the country, into work

through apprenticeships, or taking a gap year to volunteer abroad.

Kim Caplin, Vice Principal, 14-19 Pathways, at Westminster Kingsway College, said: “I’m delighted with the achievements of our students, they have done incredibly well. Many students are now going onto Russell Group universities

such as Cambridge and Oxford. A number of students are also choosing to take the apprenticeship route, with one of our students starting an apprenticeship with the Bank of England.

“We are really pleased that our students are able to consider a full range of options for employment and we wish them all the very best in the future.”

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Art of drawing at home of one of the masters

THE craft of drawing and painting will be celebrated at Leighton House Museum during September when classes on landscape painting and life drawing will be held to complement a new exhibition featuring the works of artists from Lavender Hill Studios.

Including workshops, life drawing sessions and lectures, the classes and talks will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about the methods used by a long line of masters including Frederic, Lord Leighton, whose former home in Holland Park Road is now the museum.

The exhibition – *The craft of drawing and painting: celebrating tradition today* – runs from Tuesday, September 1 to Friday, October 4 and brings together a broad body of work from delicate sketches and studies to life-size portraits, full colour landscapes and exquisite nudes. The collection showcases the work of established and aspiring artists and will give the public a thorough understanding of the artist's process thanks to detailed step-by-step explanations and accompanying paintings.

Booking for the exhibition is not necessary and tickets cost £7 adults, £5 concessions, 50 per cent off for National Trust members and free to holders of the National Art Pass.

People wishing to take part in a class or talk should book and can email museums@rbkc.gov.uk for further details.

■ Tuesday 8 September 6.30pm to 9pm: Panel discussion: Painting from life – why bother? Wednesday 12 September 10am to 1pm: Landscape workshop

■ Saturday 16 September 11am to 3pm: Material workshop

■ Tuesday 22 September 1 to 4pm: Life drawing

■ Tuesday 22 September 6.30pm to 8.30pm: From pest to palaces, the extraordinary careers of Philip de Laszio

■ Thursday 24 September 6.30pm to 9pm: Museum Late & Live, portrait painting demonstration.

■ For more information go to

www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhousemuseum.

■ Leighton House Museum is owned and operated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

London listings – Page 20



■ FINE ART: A pastel by Ann Witheridge, above, and Scott Pohlschmidt's Leticia, inset, feature at Leighton House Museum next month.



Tears and tributes for dancer killed in motorbike crash

STAGE dancer Jonathan Ollivier has been killed in a motorcycle accident in central London.

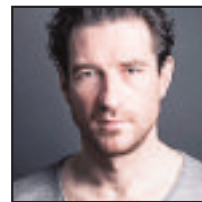
Ollivier, who was starring as Luca in Matthew Bourne's *The Car Man* at the Sadler's Wells theatre, died on August 9 before the final performance, which was then cancelled.

A statement from the Metropolitan Police confirmed the news: "Detectives have named a man who died following a fatal collision in Clerkenwell. Although formal identification has yet to take place, detectives are satisfied that the deceased is Jonathan Byrne Ollivier, 38, from Northampton."

A force spokesman said: "Police were called at 11:11am on Sunday, August 9, to Farringdon Road, London, following reports of a black Mercedes saloon being in collision with motorcycle. The 38-year-old male rider of the motorcycle was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver who stopped at the scene was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and is currently in custody at a central London police station."

As messages flooded in from around the world, Matthew Bourne, artistic director of New Adventures, issued the following tribute on behalf of the dance company: "Yesterday we lost our 'Swan' and our 'Car Man' – Jonathan Ollivier was one of the most charismatic and powerful dancers of his generation: an intensely masculine presence tempered with tenderness and vulnerability made him the perfect casting for a string of triumphant roles in the New Adventures repertory, including *The Swan*, the enigmatic Speight in *Play Without Words* and his final role as Luca in *The Car Man*, which he was due to dance at last night's final performance at Sadler's Wells."

"A man of great warmth and charm, Jonny was a true gent, loved and respected by his colleagues and adored by audiences who were mesmerised by his memorable performances on stage as well as his friendly and genuine personality at the stage door. He was also an inspiration and role model to several generations of young dancers who strived to emulate his enviable technique and majestic stage presence."



■ Jonathan Ollivier.

Passengers urged to claim from £170m Oyster card pot

● By GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TUBE passengers set to face the new misery of more strikes next week have been alerted that Transport for London is sitting on a £170 million treasure chest of their money.

London Assembly member Caroline Pigeon has revealed that TfL Transport has accumulated £168,820,000 from money left on unused Oyster cards.

The amount is made up from deposits (£83.2 million) and the Pay As You Go balances (£85.6 million) left on Oyster cards which have not been used for over a year.

"The cash pile from unused Oyster cards has been steadily growing since the start of Oyster in 2003," said Lib Dem leader Ms Pigeon.

"When Boris Johnson first became Mayor in May 2008 the amounts left on dormant Oyster cards was just £4.25 million in Pay As You Go balances and £2.81 million in deposits.

"I have long campaigned for TfL

to make it easier for people to claim back money on unused Oyster cards and when TfL's cash pile is growing by more than £2 million a month I simply do not accept that TfL are doing everything they reasonably can to allow the public to claim back their own money.

"Transport for London are never shy in using publicity except it seems when it involves telling the public how they can get back money left on dormant Oyster cards. It is time that TfL started to be far more active and gave more people the chance to get hold of their own money sitting on unused Oyster cards."

A TfL spokesman said: "If a customer no longer needs their Oyster card, we will refund any remaining pay as you go credit as well as the remaining value of any Travelcard or

Bus and Tram Pass, and the deposit if paid. To get a refund customers can take their Oyster card to a Tube station ticket office, post us the Oystercard or call TfL Customer Services."

Tube station staff are set for 24-hour strike action from 6.30pm Tuesday, August 25 and again from 6.30pm on Thursday, August 27. However, drivers will not be taking part in the industrial action.

The Night Tube service due to be introduced next month is being delayed following talks aimed at averting the strikes.

The 24-hour weekend service was scheduled to begin on the Jubilee, Victoria and most of the Piccadilly, Central and Northern lines on September 12, but has now been pushed back. Widespread disruption is still expected for most of the week leading up to the August bank holiday, when Rail, Maritime and Transport union members have planned a

strike on First Great Western services. The RMT said the strike was being held over threats to jobs, services and safety from the introduction of the new Hitachi Intercity trains.

The operator runs train services between London Paddington and the West of England, South Wales, the Cotswolds and the Thames Valley.

Union members, including guards and platform attendants, will walk out for 24 hours on Sunday, August 23 and for 72 hours from Saturday August 29. Other members on maintenance will strike on August 29 and 31. All of the strikes will begin at 00:01 BST and end at 23:59.

Commuters and tourists have already had to cope with two Tube strikes in the past month, one in July and one earlier this month.

London Underground claims that unions are demanding more money but employees say they are fighting to protect their work-life balance when the 24-hour service begins.



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Black cabs part of our heritage

I WAS pleased to see that Transport for London (TfL) have been consulting on whether all licensed black cabs should accept payment by debit or credit card since sadly not all drivers currently accept cards.

Technology can transform our city but also raises questions. Black cabs to me are a symbol of London, recognised across the world, yet they and mini cab firms face increased competition from the rise of companies such as Uber.

The Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (LTDA) which represents black cab drivers tell me they are not against competition as long as all companies obey the conditions of their licence.

It is great to see black cab drivers fighting against Uber with their own apps including @BlackCabsApp @HailoLondon @Maaxitaxi @Gett_UK @cabapp. In the same way, if people can pay by card for on-line services then why not allow the same in black cabs?

I like the fact that when I need to get home from my local station at night or am in central London, seeing a little orange light above a cab can often prompt me into hailing a driver, but when I want a longer journey, for example, to the airport, I will call a minicab.

I hope that choice will be available to all Londoners long



into the future, whether they pay by card, cash or online.

Syed Kamall
MEP for London

Shock to hear of stables' closure

I HAVE just read in the *London Weekly News* with horror of the impending closure of the Riding Stables under Westway.

This is very disappointing for local children who do not get out into the countryside to take an interest in horses and learn to ride.

I live not far away in Holland Park, but I was always surprised to learn there were these stables there when my grand daughter had lessons there some years ago. I had never known there were stables, and I am sure many people are not aware they exist – and what a wonderful secret to find.

We have so much retail development in Westfield, so please can we retain some community animal activity in the area. Horses just add to the various sporting facilities there in Westway, and Sarah Tovey certainly has established a wonder-

ful opportunity for children to learn to ride and enjoy horsemanship.

Please could my comments be passed on to those concerned.

Rosamond Rose
Holland Park

Blow for vibrant neighbourhood

MANY of us read with great sadness about the potential closure of The Troubadour due to a few complaints over customer noise from their garden.

It makes us wonder why on earth the council found it necessary to agree to an abatement order. The Troubadour has been there since 1954, no doubt decades before any of the complainants was even born. Why did they move next to The Troubadour garden in the first place?

Is it the council's wish that our vibrant neighbourhood becomes a ghost town after 6pm – as that is what is happening. Look at all the estate agents lining up to fill the spaces being created by vacating restaurants as their business turnover dwindles due to the disgraceful demolition of the Exhibition Centre.

Is there no one at the council interested in helping to keep our community alive? From what many of us see, the answer is no. Shame on you.

Alan Smith
Wetherby Mansions
Earl's Court Square



■ PROTEST: Campaigners fought to retain the stables.

No good reason for stables to go

JUST as there was no good reason for the council to close the Maxilla Children's Centre, so there is no good reason for Westway Trust to expel the Westway Stables at this time.

As you report, the Trust has received a steering group review into the local demand for equestrianism and has just commissioned a detailed feasibility study that we hope will enable it to provide a new and/or improved riding facility beneath Westway.

Kensington and Chelsea Labour councillors have long supported West London Stables and have intervened on several occasions when its continued

presence in Notting Dale ward was threatened. As a result, the Council's Westway Supplementary Planning Document now specifies the retention of stable and ménage (arena) facilities beneath the motorway. Consequently, we hope that the Trust will work with the current operator to develop a much improved stable and ménage complex and integrate it fully into its wider sporting offer at Westway.

Sarah Tuvey, the current operator, has engaged many hard-to-reach groups in equestrianism to the greater benefit of the local community, including young people known to the criminal justice system, children with special needs, older residents, people from minority ethnic groups, youngsters not in education, employment or training and girls and younger

women who would otherwise not engage in any healthy sporting activities. Westway Stables is therefore the organisation best placed, along with its charitable arm the West London Community Riding Centre, to build on this legacy and provide more riding opportunities at a time when equestrianism in central and west London is seriously threatened. Other stables are coming under great pressure to sell their sites off to property companies for redevelopment.

Evicting Sarah and her horses at this time is thus a retrograde step. Sarah has provided a popular and valuable facility in a less than salubrious part of Notting Dale ward for over 20 years. Her commitment should be recognised and acknowledged. And her much-loved horses have developed their own particular expertise in assisting a community of riders that do not fit the traditional mould of horse riding enthusiasts.

Westway Trust is well placed to provide a unique sporting offer in west London that will make a profit, provide funds to support its charitable objectives and all the benefits of equestrianism to a most diverse community of riders. In due course this may end up as the sole remaining provider of equestrian opportunities in central London.

Councillors Robert Atkinson, Judith Blakeman and Beinazir Lasharie
Notting Dale Ward

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER & PIMLICO

New choir sings: come and join us!

By Geoff Baker

A NEW community choir in south Westminster is hoping to hit the right note as it looks for local residents to join its ranks.

The brand new adult community choir – the Joint Force Singers – brings together members of the armed forces, who are local to the south Westminster area, and civilians. The choir has been funded through The Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, which was established to support the community covenant and to fund local projects that bring together the civilian and armed forces communities.

Singers of all abilities are encouraged to get involved, with no audition or specialist music skills needed – the Joint Force Singers are about getting together with the community and singing some much-loved and popular songs.

Joint Force Singers have an exciting year ahead of them as a

new choir with plans to take part in a number of high profile events at well-known Westminster venues, and the grand finale at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

Continuing the relationship with the local military community, concerts will be accompanied by musicians from the Corps of Army Music and will feature specially created works based on the music associated with the British military.

Rowena Heale is from a family of serving personnel at Wellington Barracks and has recently joined the choir.

She said: "I'm really excited about being part of Joint Force Singers; it's not a 'stuffy' choir, it's all about singing great songs and meeting new people in Westminster. I think Joint Force Singers will help us build a stronger community, the choir will be an enjoyable and fun activity for those posted to Westminster, and will also help to improve a service person's life, including their families. Even my 17-year-old son has become a member of Joint Force Singers."

Ruth Walters, Westminster Music Library Manager and founder of the choir, said: "Singing in a choir is not only a relaxing and enjoyable activity, but also has great health benefits. Westminster Music Library will be working in partnership with local armed forces and community groups to bring people across Westminster together in song. We hope that involvement in Joint Force Singers will promote long-lasting friendships between our residents and serving personnel."

Westminster City Council, Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Cllr Judith Warner, who attended a packed launch performance by the Joint Force Singers, at Westminster Music Library last week said: "We are indebted to the contribution the armed forces make in Westminster, and are proud to have a very close bond to the five per cent of our population who are currently or previously involved in the armed forces. We are excited to not only grow our amazing community of singers here in Westminster, but also to continue to grow our community spirit across all residents."

The choir will number up to 50 adult members and rehearsals take place on Saturday mornings at Wellington Barracks, and are due to commence early next month. There is no cost to join and rehearsal sessions are free. To find out more or to register, email jointforcesingers@gmail.com, or call Westminster Music Library on 020 7641 6200.

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!



Why rush to university?

THIS period of economic recovery has brought with it much to be proud of, but I found myself banging my head against the wall when I saw that university numbers have swollen.

After the financial crash and the subsequent recession, higher education was attacked from two flanks; budget cuts and the realisation that people with degrees in surfing won't put the country on an even economic keel.

However, after Thursday's A-levels, the first results day to take place since the cap on university places in England was lifted allowing universities to recruit as many students as they want to take, our hallowed halls of learning saw a three per cent rise in students being accepted for places.

Don't get me wrong, I am not completely anti higher education. We need scientists, engineers and surgeons and degree-level training is essential to make sure we have the best in the world. I just despair at this country's continued obsession with university.

One possible bright spot in this depressing tale is the fact that 48,000 of the near half a million going to university this autumn will be starting degrees in business studies. But the more I think about it, rather than creating entrepreneurs I have a horrible feeling that it will just see more students swapping their mortar boards and gowns for pin-striped suits and masks to become the next generation of City crooks.

During the recession there was a conscious shift in thinking that the education this country was delivering was not preparing our young people well enough for the world of work. In particular there was a lack of decent vocational education, which can be sculpted into a form to suit multiple professions and industries that delivers practical, job-related skills supported by respected qualifications.

Up until recently, vocational training had been treated like the black sheep of the education family that no one wanted to talk about. It was the preserve of the supposed low achievers and naughty kids. Instead we told all our young people that unless they got a degree from a university they were probably going to fail in life.

This makes no sense at all. We ended up with a country full of history and English graduates, but not enough plumbers, electricians and bricklayers.

In the past six or seven years, however, there

has been an increasing focus on vocational training. From a group of forward thinking politicians to business owners like myself, we have fought tooth and nail to get practical training, and in particular apprenticeships, back on the agenda.

We have had some level of success with the previous Coalition, but more significantly with the current Government, with its commitment to create three million more apprenticeships in the next five years as well as introducing a levy on large companies that will help fund apprenticeship training.

We can share in the spoils of the victory from this battle, but we are realistically no closer to winning the war.

The PR apprenticeships have received in the recent years has had the positive effect of turning more young people onto vocational education. Our recruitment department can bear witness to this based on the large number of unsolicited applications we receive every week.

The downside is that our business, like the majority in the UK, doesn't have the resource to take on as many apprentices as we'd like. And this will only perpetuate the skills shortage, not solve it.

This is why I am calling for a fully-funded, nationally-organised apprenticeship scheme, which

means that every young person without a job or a further education place can continue their education by doing an apprenticeship. No ifs, no buts, no half measures. This is what's needed. And in a decade, such a scheme will put an end to unemployment and fast-track the UK economy back to the premier league, by deleting our skills gap.

The debate surrounding this proposal often ends with concerns about cost and that the country will be landed with a big bill. But if apprenticeships are truly part of the education mix, we should look at the whole system and slice up funding accordingly based on the needs of the economy and the country's future and not universities' thirst for cash and young people's misguided desire to earn a degree that will add no real value to the country.

After all, kids at schools and sixth form colleges have their A-levels paid for by the state. Why can't apprenticeships be the same? If that was the case fewer people would do A-levels and go to university, which means we're using the education pound we already have in our pocket rather than trying to find more cash to pay for apprenticeships.

Until recently vocational training had been treated like the black sheep

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Heathrow landing changes could reduce noise

HEATHROW airport has announced plans to trial a new landing procedure that could reduce noise pollution for thousands of west London residents living underneath flight paths, writes Jack Dixon.

Bosses will consider introducing steeper approaches for aircraft landing at Heathrow, as part of its noise reduction 'blueprint'.

The standard angle of approach is set at three degrees but experts believe arriving at a steeper angle will enable planes to land more quietly and with less disruption to surrounding commu-

nities. The trial, one of 10 steps Heathrow is pursuing as part of efforts to tackle noise pollution, follows public outcry about the potential impacts of extra landings if a third runway is created.

Despite the objections of campaigners and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, the Davies Commission has recommended an additional runway at Heathrow. The government, however, will have the final say.

Matt Gorman, Heathrow's director of sustainability and environment, said: "Heathrow has changed and taken a

new approach to addressing our impacts on communities, including when it comes to noise.

"Our blueprint to cut aircraft noise has been driven by feedback from local communities. Its role is to challenge the industry to think innovatively about ways to reduce noise."

He added: "Steeper approaches are just one step in the right direction and, along with other, quieter operating procedures and incentives to bring quieter aircraft into operation, will ensure fewer people are affected by noise – even with an expanded airport."

Starting next month and running until March, the airport will be trialling a slightly steeper approach angle of 3.2 degrees. The trial will test whether an even steeper angle of 3.5 degrees would be feasible.

If adopted, Heathrow claims, it would become the first UK airport to introduce steeper approaches as a means to reduce noise on the ground.

Noise pollution is one of the principal concerns of west London campaigners who oppose expansion at Heathrow.

The Heathrow Association for the

Control of Aircraft Noise describes the third runway as a "terrifying prospect" for people who are "already bombarded by aircraft noise".

In a recent statement, HACAN chairman John Stewart said: "Heathrow is in a league of its own as far as noise is concerned."

"Twenty-eight per cent of all people impacted by noise in Europe live under the Heathrow flight paths. It remains the biggest political barrier to the expansion of the airport."

A report summarising the results of the trial will be published next year.

UNDER THE WESTWAY



Lives revitalised through exercise

Guest writer Stephen Wren, Director of Sport at Westway Trust, explains the importance of the Trust's role in helping to get more people fit and active, and lead healthy lifestyles

MORE than 2,000 people with a range of medical conditions have been prescribed a visit to Westway Sports and Fitness by their doctor. Where once pills and pep talks were the standard response, GPs can now refer patients for special help from our health and fitness trainers.

Why is this a good thing and what role does Westway Trust play?

Many conditions affecting poor health are sustainably treated or prevented with exercise. Exercise also comes with many benefits. For the patient, exercise has no drug-related side effects; it can prevent, as well as, help cure some conditions; and it has wider benefits such as providing socialising opportunities and mental relaxation. For the NHS, referral can mean less spending on drugs and other costly medical interventions.

Kensington and Chelsea is a borough of vast differences in wealth and health, with the highest levels of poor health situated in the north of the borough. Life expectancy varies considerably, with a difference of up to ten years. There are higher than average rates for diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease, all of which can be alleviated by regular exercise and a healthy diet. Regular exercise helps reduce blood pressure, relieve stress and anxiety, and reduce cholesterol.

Given the propensity of these medical conditions and our ambition to help improve the health of the community, playing a role by providing education and exercise opportunities is a natural fit for the Trust.

So, what exactly is the GP Exercise Referral Programme?

It is a 12-week programme for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, helping them to improve the quality of their lives through exercise and education. Patients are referred to the programme by their GP.

The programme offers supervised and affordable exercise sessions and specialist classes to ensure that the member achieves their goals and that their training is also safe and effective. Clients are educated about their condition to ensure they are able to manage it effectively and make lifestyle changes to ensure their health improves.

Partnerships with organisations such as the Stroke Association, the community health physiotherapists, GP's, NHS Health trainers, Age UK and Open Age and Camden Charities are in place, to ensure that we are able to offer people all the support they may need.

The results are remarkable.

Samuel was referred to the programme by his physiotherapist and GP after suffering a stroke in his late 40s. When he first joined the gym he was in a wheelchair and had limited mobility in the left side of his body. He was unable to walk sufficiently or leave his chair unaided.

He has used the gym regularly over the last four years and does gym based exercises as well as stroke specific exercise classes.

Over this period he has made

fantastic progress. He now very rarely uses his wheelchair and is able to walk with the aid of a walking stick. He has increased stamina and fitness and is able to walk further distances, at a quicker pace, with less rest required. He has increased leg strength and improved balance and co-ordination.

He also has a better understanding of the risk factors associated with stroke and has made changes to his lifestyle to reduce the recurrence of another stroke.

Samira, who is in her mid-40s, turned to her GP when bringing up four sons had left her a size 18. She was given a programme of weights, squats, rowing and classes. She lost three and a half stones, is down to a size 12, and feels great.

The GP referrals programme was started in June 2001. So far we have had over 2,000 referrals come through. Because of the opportunities offered by our two sports and fitness centres, most patients maintain their levels of exercise on site with us and 80% of participants report an increase in their wellbeing. They also become advocates for others to get involved in exercise.

Last year we were honoured when Westway Trust Sports and Fitness was named the country's Best Rehabilitation Facility at the National Fitness Awards, beating off strong competition from gyms around the country.

It was an incredibly proud moment for us and one that we will never forget. Awards are a fantastic accolade to the effort put in by all who run the programme but, as my team will testify, nothing is as rewarding as enthusing someone new through exercise and changing their life for the better forever.

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Have a happy, safe carnival

● By **GEOFF BAKER**

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CARNIVAL-GOERS can expect to see police officers 'twerking' and getting into dance-offs again this year as the Met joins in with the festival spirit of Europe's biggest street party – an occasion which is expected to draw more than a million people.

But the Met is warning that anyone caught carrying a knife at the event will be arrested and could face four years in prison.

Last year three men were stabbed and two police officers were injured in a series of violent clashes on the Monday evening. The Met imposed Section 60 public order measures, giving officers powers to stop and search, in response to the stabbings.

Police made 252 arrests over two days of last year's festival. There were 76 arrests over suspected drug offences, 43 for public disorder and 23 for possession of offensive weapons.

But the number of arrests was down on 2013, when 301 people were detained, and 2012 when 278 people were held – and this year police are hoping Carnival will be more trouble-free.

In an appeal to revellers to relax and enjoy the fun, the Met has made a knife warning in the wake of the recent jailing for 14 years of a man found guilty of a stabbing at last year's festival.

"We hope this sends a clear message that knives will not be tolerated and anyone found to be carrying a knife will be arrested," said a spokesman for the Carnival Investigation Team.

A conviction for carrying a knife could mean a fine of up to £5,000 and four years in prison.

Although up to 7,000 police will be available to maintain public safety, the Met is confident that the vast majority of Carnival-goers will enjoy the world-famous street festival which has been running since 1966 and where last year police became YouTube stars after 'twerking' and dancing with revellers.

CARNIVAL PROGRAMME

Saturday September 29

■ **London Calypso Tent** – The Association of The British Calypsonians welcomes all to the London Calypso Tent to engage and be entertained by the performances of UK Calypsonians and visiting international artists. An electrifying showcase of storytelling, poetry, political commentary, humour and much more creatively presented by



■ **PRETTY IN PINK:** Carnival colour.



■ **CELEBRATION TIME:** Notting Hill Carnival – a traditional riot of colour.

the sweet Calypso or Soca rhythms of the Caribbean. Time: 8pm to 11pm. Venue: Carnival Village, Tabernacle, Powis Square, off Portobello Rd, W11 2AY.

■ **Panorama** – A free open air evening for the entire family, steel band lovers, general music lovers or anyone looking to enjoy a great evening in a Caribbean style atmosphere. The evening consists of a competitive performance by national steel bands and other entertainment. Venue: Emslie Horniman Pleasance Park, Bosworth Road, W10. Free. Time: 6pm to 10pm.

Sunday September 30

■ **Family Day** – Time: 10am to 8.30pm. A jubilant Children's Parade as they showcase their flamboyant costumes dancing along the carnival route to the hypnotic rhythms provided by the mobile sound systems or steel bands.

A fabulous display of vocals, on the World Music Stage at Powis Square. Features calypso and soca performances by the Association of British Calypsonians, visiting international calypsonians, emerging artists of other genre and various other performances. A haven for a range of music styles and astounding stage performances exhibited by the static sound systems. 38 systems are strategically located around the footprint of the carnival. Family workshops at Emslie Horniman's Pleasance, a variety of tasty Caribbean foods, drinks and more.

Jouvert. Time: 6am to 9pm – A fun, fun time to mark the opening of the carnival be adventurous. Get dirty or even come along with a carnivalesque or

comical presentation. Dance along the streets to the pulsating rhythms of steel bands, riddim bands and African drummers. Procession begins and ends at Canal way, Ladbroke Grove W14 next to Sainsbury's car park.

Monday September 31

■ **Monday Parade** – Time: 10am to 8.30pm. The grand finale showcasing a sea of vibrant colours as 60 bands in magnificent costumes dance to the tantalising rhythms of the mobile sound systems or steel bands. Enjoy the continuation of vocals on the World Music Stage at Powis Square. Come and be entertained by UK Calypsonians, soca artist, visiting international artists and other emerging acts. See how many of the 38 static sound systems you can visit as they entertain you with diverse genres of music and stage performances which contribute to the Carnival's vibrant atmosphere.

TRAVEL

TRANSPORT for London has issued comprehensive travel advice to getting to Carnival.

As hundreds of thousands of people are expected to visit Carnival this year, this means roads and public transport in west London will be very busy on August Bank Holiday weekend. Remember:

■ There will be extensive road closures in the Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove and Westbourne Park areas, with a large number of pedestrians expected.
■ Tube and rail will be the best way to get around London during the weekend, although stations in west London

will be busier than usual, and some will be exit-only or closed during the event.

■ Drivers are advised to avoid these areas wherever possible, or allow more time to travel from Saturday, 29 August to early morning on Tuesday, 1 September.

■ Buses around the event area will be on diversion or will terminate earlier than usual to avoid the road closures

Tube

TUBE and Rail will be the best way to get around London on the weekend, although stations in west London will be busier than usual.

For safety reasons some stations may close temporarily to prevent overcrowding. It may be worthwhile walking part of your journey or finding an alternative route. Stations close to the Notting Hill Carnival area include:

■ **Ladbroke Grove:** closed on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

■ **Latimer Road:** closed after 22:30 on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

■ **Notting Hill Gate:** on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, the station will be exit-only between 11:00 and 19:00. Between 11:00 and 19:00 on Sunday, and all day on Bank Holiday Monday, there will be no interchange between the Circle, Central and District lines

■ **Westbourne Park:** exit-only between 11:00 - 18:00 and closed at 23:30 on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

■ **Royal Oak:** exit-only between 11:00 - 18:00 and closed at 23:30 on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

■ **Bayswater:** on Bank Holiday Monday between 12:00 - 19:00, you may want to use this station as Circle and District line trains will not stop at Notting Hill Gate

■ **Paddington** (Hammersmith and City and Circle lines): on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday you may want to use this station instead of Notting Hill Gate or Royal Oak, as both these stations will have entry restrictions.

■ **Other nearby stations:** High Street Kensington (Circle and District lines), Holland Park (Central line), Queen's Park (Bakerloo line) and Shepherd's Bush (Central line).

During the weekend, there are planned works on the Victoria line. There will be no Victoria line service between Walthamstow Central and Seven Sisters, and fewer trains running between Seven Sisters and Brixton. Services will be busier than usual. Lines close the Victoria line, such as the Central line and London Overground services, will also be much busier than usual while customers take alternative routes.

Driving

TO create a safe environment during the carnival there will be major road closures around Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove and Westbourne Park. If you can, avoid the parts of west London listed below, or allow extra time for your journey.

To allow preparation for the carnival, the following roads will close on Sunday 30 August between 02:00 - 05:00:

■ **Westbourne Park Road** (between Great Western Road and Ladbroke Grove)

■ **Elgin Crescent**

■ **Kensington Park Road** (between Westbourne Grove and Elgin Crescent)

■ **Cambridge Gardens** (between St Marks Road and Ladbroke Grove)

■ **Lane restrictions on Great Western Road**

The road closures above will make traffic around the event area busier than usual including the following roads: Edgware Road (A5); Harrow Road; Holland Park Avenue; Notting Hill Gate; Bayswater Road.

Event road closures

ROADS on or near the carnival route will close on:

■ Sunday 30 August 07:00 - 23:59

■ Monday 31 August 07:00 - Tuesday 1 September 05:00 (or as soon as the area has been cleaned)

The road closures will cover: Harrow Road in the north; Notting Hill Gate in the south; Clarendon Road in the west; Queensway in the east.

Traffic is likely to be slow moving at: Edgware Road (A5); Harrow Road; Holland Park Avenue; Notting Hill Gate; Bayswater Road.

Local parking restrictions will apply. Find out more at Westminster City Council and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's sites.

Buses

FROM around 05:00 on Sunday, 30 August – 05:00 on Tuesday, 1 September, buses around the event area will be on diversion or will terminate earlier than usual to avoid the road closures. During these times, buses will start from the Prince of Wales on Harrow Road to the north of the carnival area. To the south of the carnival area, buses will start from Notting Hill Gate.

■ Affected bus routes include: 6, 7, 16, 18, 23, 27, 28, 31, 36, 46, 52, 70, 94, 98, 148, 187, 220, 228, 274, 295, 316, 328, 332, 390, 414, 452, N7, N16, N18, N28, N31 N98 and N207.

■ Extra buses will run on routes 2, 205, 436 which can be found on journey planner as 2X, 205X and 436X

■ There will be extra day and night buses serving the Notting Hill Carnival, but buses in west London are expected to be busier than usual, so allow plenty of time for your journey

■ Follow @TfLBusAlerts on Twitter for the latest bus updates.

Cycling

THE following Santander docking stations in the carnival area will be suspended between 21:00 Saturday 29 August 21:00 - 07:00 Tuesday 1 September: Lansdowne Walk; Pembridge Villas; Ladbroke Grove Central; Blenheim Crescent; All Saints Road; Westbourne Park Road; All Saints Church Portobello; Turquoise Island; Chepstow Villas; St Marks Road; Westbourne Park Road; Notting Hill Gate Station; Hereford Road.



■ **SHOW STOPPER:** Stunning outfits.

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS/ FULHAM

RETRO SPLENDOUR



The glamorous and stylish times of the 1920s and 1930s have had an enduring effect on interior décor. Sophisticated Art Deco furniture continues to enjoy perennial revivals, although it can be quite tricky to source good-quality items at reasonable prices. Cue Retro Sofas – a company specialising in classic Italian leather sofas, chairs and footstools inspired by the refined lines of vintage originals.

Specialising in top class leather reproductions of iconic vintage designs, Retro has a beautiful range of sofas, chairs and footstools inspired by the beautiful designs of the Art Deco period. And to make the proposition even more enticing, Retro Sofas offers amazing value for money, with selected pieces 40 per cent off!

But despite the price, quality is still maintained. Pieces are built to last and feature fine hand-stitched Italian leather over a traditional hardwood frame. Recline gracefully on seats supported by top-quality German springs. The best selling "Jean Renoir" 1930s style Art Deco range is a true classic, featuring stylish swept arms and available in a choice of seven colours with or without contrasting piping.

Jean Renoir armchairs are already currently reduced from £795 to £545 and readers are offered an extra 10 per cent discount on this (and across the rest of the Retro Sofa ranges), reducing the price to £490.

Just call 0207 381 9027, email sales@retrosocas.co.uk or visit 225 Munster Road, Fulham, SW6 before August 31st 2015.

Visit www.retrosofas.co.uk for details of this and all other offers.



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Nostalgia for the unapologetic opulence of the lost 'Crazy Years' has been immortalised in the decor of the venue. Daytime flows into night as the lighter, fresher hues of the restaurant give way seamlessly to the richer tones of the wood

panelled 'speakeasy' private dining room, injecting an element of the risqué into the space; luxurious velvet chesterfields nestled amongst exposed brickwork and marbled flooring throughout make The Lucky Pig Fulham the ideal destination to fritter away the hours from dawn 'til dusk.

A throwback to the irreverence of the roaring 20s, where life was lived on a high and scruples ran low, the time has come to revive the old-fashioned glamour of the heydays and throw upon it our own little twist of modernity and flair.

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■ **EATING ON THE JOB:** One of the English Longhorn cows that is helping Kensington and Chelsea Council maintain wild flower meadows.

Council makes a meal of conservation work

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council has called in the cows to help conservation 'mooves' to manage wild flower areas in Holland Park.

Two English Longhorns, called Nimbus and Neija, will stay in the park for a fortnight and eat their way through tough grass and flowers and, in the process, encourage the development of wildflower meadows.

English Longhorns are renowned for their docile nature and rough grazing abilities. Where other cattle would turn up their noses the Longhorn tucks in to nettles, coarse grasses, wild flowers and thistles.

"Wildflower meadows are a valued part of the British countryside and are sadly one of our fastest dis-

appearing habitats," said a Council spokeswoman.

"As a result, many native wildflowers are in decline and some have almost disappeared. The meadows, which support birds and small mammals, are also home to many invertebrates including butterflies, grasshoppers, bees and even rare moths.

"The cows will graze in the aboretum and oak enclosures and will disturb the soil and bulbs. In the long term this will benefit the bulbs encouraging them to flower more vigorously in the following seasons."

This is the third year that English Longhorn cows have been used in Holland Park. In the past British

Saddleback pigs have grazed in the park for up to two months which also helped with the management of the meadow area.

Residents who want to see the heifers can find them in the enclosure adjoining the Kyoto garden near Lord Holland's pond and statue.

■ Stockman John Philips from Maydencroft Farm, Hertfordshire will give a talk on Monday 24 August in Holland Park on the use of Longhorn cows in conservation grazing projects.

■ If you would like to find out more about the use of cattle in conservation projects come along to John Philip's talk at 6pm, meet by Lord Holland's statue.

■ For more information on this project please email ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk

■ Longhorns are one of the oldest and largest of the British native breeds and are renowned for their docility, strong maternal instincts and rough grazing abilities.

■ Originally used as oxen to plough the land the Longhorn rose to fame as a superior beef animal in the 1700s but in the early 1900s the breed fell out of favour.

■ The modern rise of the Longhorns is attributed to a change in farming methods, with some farmers preferring a less intensive rearing and grazing system in which the slow maturing and more maternal breeds rule supreme.

Pensions expert to help fund housing and infrastructure

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has appointed Edi Truell as his advisor on pensions and investments, to drive forward collaboration between public sector pension funds and invest the proceeds in infrastructure and housing in London and across the country.

The Mayor believes that amalgamating some of the country's numerous public-sector pension funds and creating a Citizens' Wealth Fund would save billions of pounds through greater efficiencies, lower fees and improved returns. These funds could then be invested in homes, roads, railways, power stations and airports and help cover the cost of the UK's ageing population.

Edi Truell has taken up the unpaid position to advance the cause of pension consolidation across the Local Government Pension Scheme and public sector pension funds more generally.

The Mayor and Leader of Lancashire County Councillor, Jennifer Mein have also announced that Mr Truell will establish an advisory board for the newly-created Lancashire and London Pensions Partnership, the £10bn partnership between the London Pensions Fund Authority and the Lancashire County Pension Fund.

Mr Truell has over 30 years of financial services experience including leadership positions in banking, private equity, pensions, insurance and debt investment. He was a driving force behind the transformation of the LPFA and the creation of the LLPP and he will resign from his position as Chairman of the LPFA on September 1st in order to take up his new roles.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "Edi's leadership of the London Pensions Fund Authority has been a great success and the work that he has done so far to consolidate our funds with our Lancashire counterparts is a triumph of service to public finance. If we now use this new partnership as a blueprint for further pooling of pension funds, we could have a war chest worth hundreds of billions of pounds and access to the kind of investment opportunities which have until now been the preserve of foreign sovereign wealth funds."



■ **Edi Truell.**

Cost of policing Assange stalemate hits £12million – and there's no end in sight

THE cost of the police watch on Julian Assange has been so huge that it could have paid for an extra 600 bobbies on the beat of the borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

And now residents and taxpayers footing the £10,400-a-day price of policing the pavement outside the Ecuador Embassy in Knightsbridge face the possibility of still paying out for the next 50 years.

The 44-year-old Australian fugitive founder of the WikiLeaks website has been holed up at the embassy since June 2012.

Next Tuesday, August 25th, the cost of keeping police outside the embassy to arrest him if he should try to leave will reach £12 million.

Although Mr Assange had some relief last week when a Swedish probe into sexual assault allegations against

● **By GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

him ran out of time because of the statutes of limitations, he still faces rape allegations which, unless retracted, will continue as that statute of limitations allows five more years before the case can no longer be pursued.

But even if the rape allegations and a European arrest warrant are dropped Mr Assange may not be free to go.

Besides facing arrest for jumping bail, Mr Assange has said that he would not leave the embassy without a guarantee from the UK Government that he would have safe passage to Ecuador to claim political asylum.

Such a guarantee would cause a major diplomatic row between the Government and America – where the whistleblower is most wanted with a view to prosecution under the Espi-

ionage Act – and is highly unlikely to ever happen, meaning that unless he wants to take his chances Mr Assange could be stuck squatting in Knightsbridge for good.

The cost of the police operation around Mr Assange has already been slammed by leading London politicians.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "It's absolutely ridiculous. That money should be spent on frontline policing. It's completely wasted."

Baroness Jenny Jones, deputy chair of the Police & Crime Committee at the London Assembly, has called for the police cordon to be called off.

She said: "The policing bill for keeping one man holed up in an embassy has reached yet more ridiculous proportions. The Government has yet to explain why taxpayers have to pay for this. It's time to end the stalemate and stand down the officers."

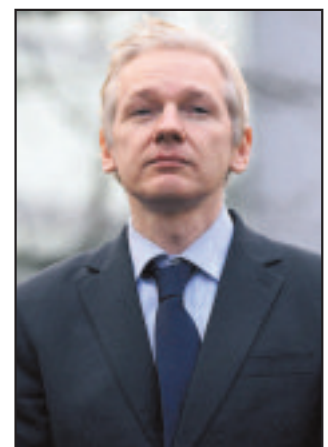
The public's money spent on maintaining the police sentries outside the embassy near Harrods could have gone to making Kensington and Chelsea a much safer place.

The borough currently has 416 officers on its beat but the local force could have been bolstered to more than 1,000.

With a constable's pay at around £20,000, the £12 million Assange bill could have funded the recruitment of up to 600 more officers.

Alternatively, the money would have bought 10 million meals for the needy or 47,000 hospital beds for one night, or vaccinations for 60,000 children or 550 teachers salaried for one year.

Mr Assange lives in a converted back office in the 10-room apartment that makes up the embassy. He has a bedroom and a kitchenette and has been provided with a computer, treadmill and a sun-lamp.



■ **CONTROVERSY:** Julian Assange continues to frustrate legal authorities.

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

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Prince of starkness

Charles: change how we farm or we perish

By Geoff Baker

IN 1995 Prince Charles gave a brave and radical speech in which he warned that if we did not act against the industrialising of our agriculture, the spread of pesticides and the interests of the agro-chemical companies, we were going to get into a lot of trouble.

Nobody listened much. Perhaps they will listen now as Charles has returned to his stark warning with an even starker one – we've got to act or we're going to get dead. That is the blunt message that the Prince of Wales has now spelled out for Britain and the world – change the way we

farm or the human race will perish.

Biodiversity was Charles's theme in his speech to Ministers, scientists and farmers 20 years ago. It's a confusing word and at the time he joked that some thought it referred to a new form of washing powder. In fact it means the variety of different types of life found on

TURN TO PAGE 14

■ **ROYAL RECOGNITION:** The Queen meets veteran George Reynolds at the Church of St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, during Saturday's VJ Day commemorations.

Picture: REX/ Shutterstock

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FROM PAGE 13

earth and, most importantly, how they work with each other to support ecosystems that, in total, support life on the planet.

If we mess with how they work with each other, we risk ending life on earth. Which is exactly what is happening in Britain now; by continuing to industrialise the way we grow our always-available, season-less supermarket food we are now eating in the last-chance diner.

It could have been different. Governments could have heeded Charles's warning of 20 years back, they could have actioned environmental concerns to take precedence over economic issues. But they didn't, the relentless drive for more profit by growing more pest-resistant, out-of-season food at whatever cost to ecology bulldozed on.

Tragically – and it is tragic, the coming death of mankind blind to its own suicide – Charles predicted this 20 years of heads in the sand when he made that speech to the International Biodiversity Seminar at Lancaster House. He saw the fatal indolence of Whitehall and Westminster coming.

"Having met more than a few Environment Ministers in my time, I can tell you that the problem is the same all over the world. The relevant plans are written, or at least led, by Environment Departments, yet any measure of success will be heavily dependent on what happens – or doesn't happen – in Departments of Agriculture, Forestry

Charles: we risk ending life on earth

and Transport – not to mention Treasuries," Charles said, precisely.

"Integrating environmental requirements with such potentially conflicting functions is difficult enough at the best of times, but becomes impossible when environmental issues are seen as inconvenient obstacles to be by-passed with as little disruption as possible to normal service.

"I have often wondered whether a tame environmental expert working in each department might not make a difference, but for some strange reason it has never been a popular suggestion. Why not have a biodiversity adviser in each department?"

Of course it hasn't happened, of course profit and economic growth has been stupidly given greater importance. Who cares if our great-great grandchildren will starve just so long as we can have more money now?

But Charles cares and now he has pledged to campaign for the penny to drop for the Whitehall dunderheads who are driving us to the brink of destruction.

In a new and landmark interview with the BBC's *On Your Farm*, the Prince admitted that although it upsets and annoys him that the blinkered authorities still don't listen, he will keep on – to his deathbed – to try ensure that they do.

"It can be very frustrating, yes, and I rather hope that before I finally shuffle off this mortal coil that there is some movement in being able to create the right conditions [for a better way]," said Charles.

Rolling his sleeves up to attack the Government's friends in chemical, pesticide and genetic-engineering companies – some of whom were recently allowed by Whitehall to start spraying rape fields again despite the overwhelming evidence of the dangers to bees – Charles courageously proposed a system of fines that the authorities won't want to be put about.

"The polluters should pay," he said, speaking up for every parent who distrusts the production of non-organic. "There should be a form of accounting for the envi-

ronmental and health costs we are creating."

Charles is in no doubt about those costs and nor should we be – they are simple to add up: by destroying biodiversity by maximising food production we are going to destroy ourselves.

"Biodiversity means the variety of life on which we all depend. The difficulty is that we've been taught that we don't depend on this," warned the Prince. "But I think, and I've been trying to say this for a long time, that you have to put an economic value on what Nature gives us.

"For so many hundreds of years we've pushed Nature into the background, we've exploited, we've taken and we've put nothing back. And we somehow imagine that we are separate from Nature, that it exists somewhere else and that we can go on exploiting. We need to have an integrated approach to rural development. I happen to think that the small farmer, the smallholder, is essential to the maintenance of food security, it can't all be done by gigantic corporations and agri-businesses. Some of them try but a lot of them are not interested in biodiversity.

"I would argue that the modern industrialised system of farming isn't sustainable in the long run, which is why all those years ago I decided to opt for an agro-ecological approach to farming, because that approach maintains so many things which are vital to our long-term survival."

Meadows are what we need, for starters. Proper meadows with flowers and grasses and the insects they sustain are vital to the eco-balance. And yet for decades our meadows have been ploughed up, hedgerows obliterated, flora and insects destroyed by chemicals, in the march for bigger fields for growing greater crops.

Since the 1930s – when the industrialisation of agriculture began – 97 per cent of British meadows have been lost. Ninety seven per cent. It takes an afternoon to plough up and destroy a meadow, it takes 25 years for one to grow back fully recovered.

But whilst Whitehall and the Government play at paying lip service to the threat of the looming eco-disaster, Prince Charles is showing them how they should be acting with his own Coronation Meadow initiative. He launched the Coronation Meadows plan in 2012, his aim being to establish 60 wildflower meadows – one in every county in the kingdom.

"Nostalgia is all that we are left with at the moment to do with meadows in the UK," said Charles. "Hence the Coronation Meadow initiative. The idea being that that's the best way to reintroduce the pollinating insects and bees that everybody is so worried about now and which are disappearing everywhere. The way to do it is quite simple – create the wild flower meadows."

Although he originally set out to establish 60 meadows, now the Prince is suggesting that the Government should act to ensure that there is a meadow on every farm.

So how can we in an inner-city help with a problem that seems all about farms? We can start with the shopping – shun the supermarkets this weekend and instead shop for organic at the farmers' markets which are in every borough in London. It's a small step but if steps like these are not taken the consequence will be a catastrophe.



■ **COMRADES REUNITED:** Prince Philip meets Far East veteran John Dean, who served on the same ship as the Duke during the war. Photo REX Shutterstock



■ **HERO'S STORY:** Sophie, Countess of Wessex, talks to one of the war veterans honoured during Saturday's VJ Day 70th anniversary memorial events. Photo REX Shutterstock



■ **VJ DAY PARTY:** Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, dances with 94-year-old Royal Navy veteran Jim Booth, from Taunton, Somerset. Photo REX Shutterstock



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ROYAL LONDON

Forgotten no more, heroes march

by Geoff Baker

IT was the last of marches, it was the best of marches. It was the march that they were denied 70 years ago when they returned home from the Far East to silence and were told by authorities not to talk about what they had endured.

And so until Saturday they had still suffered; not only a Forgotten Army but a gagged one, brave men and women forbidden their say on what had happened all of that time ago when they were young and their nation did not want to listen.

But on a day in London which dominated Britain and was watched the world over, the heroes of the Victory over Japan finally won their rightful salute as The Queen led the capital to stand, cheer and wipe tears of pride in tribute, honouring at last the veteran soldiers, prisoners of war and all those whose lives were changed forever so that ours would remain free.

"We stand in awe of those who were tried in ways greater than we can imagine so that we would know peace," said Dr Sam Wells, the vicar of St Martin's-In-The Fields, as he perfectly summarised what VJ Day 70 was all about.

They are in their mid-nineties now, the brave Allied warriors who, from Tommy Atkins to Prince Philip, won us the great deliverance from tyranny, and their day will never be marked like this again.

And so, sensing this, they marched through Whitehall with full hearts and a spirit reflecting the dignity of their proudest hour; in wheelchairs and on sticks, some bent by age, some still with arms swinging in time with the rhythm of the pipes and drums that led the parade of those freedom fighters who shaped



■ **PARADE OF HEROES:** The 70th anniversary VJ Day march at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Saturday.

Photo Ray Tang/REX Shutterstock

the world in which we live today.

They are the best of us, Prince Charles reminded; we, who have had it so easy and so peaceful because of their courage and sacrifice, will never know their like again.

Those told to forget have now taught us to remember

And so every young man in the uniforms of their guard of honour – from the Coldstream Guards to the Royal Marines to the Gurkhas – stood ramrod to attention as behind them crowds of Londoners and tourists put out their arms for the privilege of shaking the

hands of heroes. And on this, one of the most profoundly moving days of the 25,550 days of peace which they won us, former enemies were united in their message: "It is a day to resolve never to go to such war ever again," said the Japanese Ambassador. "The key phrase is 'lest we forget'", said one much-medalled wearer of the Burma Star.

Those who were told to forget have now taught us to remember; to remember the folly of following tyrants, to learn from the waste of the lives of millions and to respect the glory of the human spirit to be free.

The last march will ensure that the lesson is never forgotten again.



■ **REMEMBRANCE:** The Queen arrives at St Martin's-In-The-Fields Church. Above: The Rev Canon Stanlon, Canon of Westminster, with Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and Sir Stephen Lamport, Receiver General, walk to the gardens. Photos REX/Shutterstock

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Iconic late-night broadcast to get Proms treatment

Thinking man's rock mentor guides us to the darker side

by Geoff Baker

A COUPLE of nights ago I was listening to a re-run of Jarvis Cocker's *Wireless Nights* and I must have nodded off – the point of the show, according to Jarvis – and fell into a nightmare in which he was announced on the news as being the latest opportunist to join *Strictly Come Dancing*.

In my dream, Jarvis was dancing with a badger and, egged on by BBC floor managers holding up huge placards saying 'Please Cheer!', the crowd in the TV studio were going mad for it. When it came to the judges' comments, Bruno Tonioli said it was the greatest performance that *Strictly* had ever seen and everybody gave Jarvis 10. In the corner of the studio, being busted out in an arm-lock by security, a struggling little boy was shouting "This is insanity!" as the heavies fought to put a hand over his mouth.

I woke up very disturbed and immediately went online to discover if this horror story was true; had the absolute sell-out actually happened, was rock's great thinker caving in to join the unseemly rush of people previously never known for their dancing to the facelift show where careers are airbrushed and re-sculpted for no apparent point other than to celebrate celebrity?

As it happens, it was not Jarvis but another J that my subconscious had been thinking of – Jeremy Vine, the former *Panorama* presenter and Radio 2 host who had that day been announced as the first contestant for the new *Strictly* season.

"How could I say no to the biggest show in TV? Yes, yes, yes and yes again to the sequins and the samba! Now I just need to find some dancing shoes and identify my left foot," Jeremy had apparently gushed on the *Chris Evans Show* when normal programming was interrupted to bring us this important announcement.

Jarvis could have told him how to say no. He could have told him how to say it in the same way that Jarvis did some while back when somebody totally out of touch with reality asked the former Pulp front-man to appear on that other career-resuscitating show, *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here*.

"I told them where to go," said Jarvis, admirably, "I can't think of anything worse."

Fame is in a bad way these days. No longer an achievement that is predicated upon talent and accomplishment, it is now almost entirely awarded according to recognition. And within a foundry like the BBC where fame is industrially generated, the likes of *Strictly* and *I'm A Celebrity* have an important role as a breakers' yard; when your recognition falters you can take your old career there and have it re-hashed as brilliantly as the capped teeth that celebrities expect us to believe that they were born with.

The defence of agents, managers and publicists who are employed because when you achieve stardom you apparently lose the ability to speak for your-



■ BRANCHING OUT: Jarvis Cocker

Picture Nick Cunard/REX Shutterstock

self is that "doing *Strictly*" is admirable because "it's doing something different". Few think that their justification begs the question, "but is it doing something good, something worthwhile?"

Jarvis, never a man likely to star in an Asda commercial, is now about to yet again show that there is a better way to use one's fame, to do something different but to do what is classy, artistic and worthwhile.

On September 10 he is to join the cast of this season of Proms when he brings his *Wireless Nights* to the Royal Albert Hall. In the last of this year's Proms collaborations with six of the BBC national radio stations and BBC Music, his hugely-popular Radio 4

broadcaster Brian Johnston could enchant his audience by coaxing out the tales of ordinary folk, as opposed to the modern, garish format of stars inviting yet more stars onto shows to preen and promote themselves predictably, Jarvis is still cheerleading for the salt of the earth, championing the stories of the everyday as finely as he did years ago with the cutting cynicism of *Common People*, the Pulp hit which became an anthem of Britpop.

Of course, as a champion of the people Jarvis will always be best known for best defining the pricking of the pomposity of the emperor's new clothes when he pricked pop's most deluded emperor, Michael Jackson, at the 1996 Brit Awards. Righteously-irritated that the face of plastic surgery was showcasing his latest hit by performing messianically with a choir of children and a rabbi, Jarvis stormed the stage in protest and, in a dreadful indictment of how even the police will worship the famous solely because they are famous, got arrested for it and briefly detained.

"My actions were a form of protest at the way Michael Jackson sees himself as some kind of Christ-like figure with the power of healing," he said afterwards, as the rock press called for him to be knighted and Noel Gallagher said he should be given an MBE for it.

Naturally, Jackson fans objected – as they did again a decade later when Jarvis, appearing on the BBC's *Question Time*, honestly and accurately opined that the death of the King of Pop had been over-hyped. When challenged on the programme over what he objected to about Michael Jackson at the time of the BRIT Awards incident, he reiterated his earlier comments about Jackson and Christ.

Pressed further – "Otherwise as a performer you thought he was a genius?" – Jarvis came back with one of rock's best perspectives – "Well, he invented the moonwalk."

Ironically, his BRIT Awards protest against the ludicrous adoration of celebrity created its own monster for himself; suddenly the working class hero from the Sheffield scene was front-page news, and he loathed it.

"That was when it all went wrong for me. It was my own fault obviously for drawing attention to myself in such a way," he told the *NME*. "On a personal level, the level of celebrity that came with that was just not good for me."

"Some people thrive on it but I hated it. When you've been in a tabloid, bus drivers recognise you. Before that, I knew I could only get recognised if I hung around the indie section of HMV."

"But once you've crossed over into that kind of other territory you're kind of like Jordan, but without the breasts. Everybody recognises you. It does your head in. Especially as a lot of my writing was based on eavesdropping. I couldn't eavesdrop on people anymore because everyone was staring at me."

Fortunately – as we need at least some stars to tell it as it is – the experience did not put him in the luvvie chat show circus and instead helped propel him to acclaim in most of the much that he does – including on radio everything

from guest-editing the *Today* programme to his own award-winning Radio 6 show *The Sunday Service*, to journalism, editor-at-large for Faber & Faber, acting, video directing, writing for the soundtrack of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, and appearing briefly in the film as lead singer of The Weird Sisters, narrating Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* at the Festival Hall and writing and performing collaborations with more artists than you can shake a stick at.

Also, and as importantly, he has remained a role-model for those young people entering the music business with the belief that there has to be more substance to it than winning the phone vote of people who drink Red Bull.

As another glitzy example of tabloid television is poised to return for another run of creating "stars" that you've largely forgotten about the morning after, the young with real talent would do well to heed what he said about *The X Factor* a little while ago.

"It's not music, is it?" he told *Short-List* magazine. "I don't want to sound like a fuddy-duddy, but to me it's everything I don't agree with. The thing that makes good music is that idea that somebody stumbles upon something or just through their enthusiasm and energy they invent something by accident."

"That's where all great music has come from. Probably all great art if we're honest. And the idea on *The X Factor* that these experts come in and tell you how to do it, how to style yourself and everything else..."

"Also, look at the level of the experts. In a world where Louis Walsh can be considered an expert, something's wrong. I hate that because then it makes kids think that there's a proper way to be a pop star, like there's a formula, it's rubbish."

What most certainly isn't rubbish is *Wireless Nights*. Although, with typical self-effacement, he says: "If it helps people nod off, I'll take it as a compliment", the series is growing more and more fans of much the same sort as those John Peel attracted when he began presenting *Home Truths*, a gentle cult of the more discerning who have been turned off by that show's transformation into the over-breezy *Saturday Live*.

As *The Independent* recently wrote of *Wireless Nights*: "These aural portraits of people's everyday lives are startling and wonderful. There is rarely any glamour to these tales and yet they are as strange and unlikely and otherworldly as if we'd passed through the wardrobe into Narnia."

"They are the best kind of bedtime stories – heart-warming and yet tinged with darkness."

How the enchanting format will translate to a late performance [it starts at 10.15pm] with orchestra at the Albert Hall will be fascinating to discover and if there are any tickets left, grab one, for it will be a very special night.

■ Jarvis Cocker's *Wireless Nights* at The Proms, The Royal Albert Hall, September 10. Tickets www.royalalberthall.com



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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

It's a fat revolution

IN terms of kitchen 'outlaws', sugar has completely overtaken fat as public enemy number one.

In fact, fat has been making something of a comeback in recent years, and the latest advocates to sing its praises are sports scientist and marathon runner Professor Tim Noakes, nutritionist Sally Ann-Creed and chef and open ocean swimmer Jonno Proudfoot.

Their book, *The Real Meal Revolution*, has taken South Africa by storm and has just landed on UK shores, promising to help people lose weight without giving up all that juicy meat, butter and cream.

There is a catch, though – carbs are strictly off the menu.

This low-carbohydrate, high-fat (LCHF) plan has similarities with the Paleo diet, in that it advocates a return to eating what our ancient ancestors, the hunter-gatherers, ate some 200,000 years ago – before we started cultivating grains. It also draws heavily on the Banting diet devised by British undertaker William Banting, who famously gave up the carb-rich eating habits of the Victorians in the 1860s to cure himself of obesity.

Of course, low or no-carb/high fat and protein diets have always been somewhat controversial, attracting both fierce critics and fans.

Prof Noakes, however, is convinced that this eating regime has benefited his own health.

"We've been raised to believe that cholesterol, caused by eating too much fat, causes diseases, and that every disease in the book is linked to a high-fat diet. It turns out that's completely wrong," claims Noakes, who has Type 2 diabetes but, at 66, says he's running like a 40-year-old.

"What's killing us is having elevated blood insulin concentrations all the time, and that is caused by high-carbohydrate diets and it's exacerbated in people like myself, who have insulin resistance. Insulin resistance is the most prevalent medical condition in the world, it dwarves everything else."

To devise their recipes, Proudfoot drew up three lists – green, orange and red – of foods people should eat in abundance, be wary of and avoid altogether, with meat, cheese and leafy greens all on the green list; fruit, nuts and root veggies on the orange list and all flour, grains, cake, rice, pasta, sugar, potatoes and even peas on the red list.

So popular has it been in South Africa, that supermarkets have struggled to keep up with demand for Banting ingredients, including cauliflower, which forms the basis of several recipes, such as cauliflower-wraps, cauliflower-mash and cauliflower-rice.

"There was a national cauliflower shortage," says Proudfoot. "The price of cauliflower for 1kg used to be 50p and at one point, it went up to £4! One supermarket chain in particular now sells pre-packaged versions of some of our recipes, including cauliflower-rice."

"I used to work in fine dining and make cauliflower-rice as a fancy alternative to mash – cauliflower is just as nutritious as other veggies but it has a variety of different uses, you can make it look like all other carbohydrates, which is good when you're coming off carbs."

Proudfoot had the idea for a cookbook when he was training to swim from Mozambique to Madagascar and wanted to chart his diet. He approached Prof



■ **CULINARY PIONEER: Jonno Proudfoot.**

Noakes and Creed, and together the three have come up with a radical attack on carbohydrates.

As well as the obvious – ditching refined carbs like white bread and pasta – this trio takes it a hefty step further, suggesting wholegrains are cut too. Not that Prof Noakes is convinced they even really exist, mind you.

"There's no such thing as wholegrains, because you can't digest them, that's a marketing angle," he says. "Our health deteriorated the minute we started eating grains. Our teeth went rotten, the bacteria in the mouth changed when we started eating carbs and then we lost height and we've only got back to the height we were 15,000 years ago in the last 20 or 30 years, which is quite astonishing."

Instead of getting energy from carbs, *The Real Meal Revolution* aims to 'retrain' the body to run on fat, which keeps you fuller for longer – meaning lots of butter, coconut oil, full-fat cream and cheese go into the recipes. But neither Proudfoot or Prof Noakes are concerned about cholesterol, with Proudfoot claiming: "If you look at the statistics, it's

clear it's not an indicator of early death."

Whether or not you want to go full-on with the revolution, here is a recipe from the book to try at home...

■ Please consult your doctor before embarking on any extreme diet change, especially if you have a health condition.

WARM HADDOCK AND CAULIFLOWER SALAD WITH TAHINI DRESSING (Serves 2)

For the dressing:

4tbsp tahini
Juice of 2 lemons
1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
Approx 100ml water

For the salad:

100g butter
300g cauliflower, cut into small pieces
300g smoked haddock
60g toasted pine nuts

Preheat the oven to 180C (Gas 4).

Melt the butter in the microwave or in a small pan. Place the cauliflower in a small oven tray and drizzle with butter. Roast the cauliflower until it is golden on the edges, around 30 minutes.

Add the haddock to the tray and return to the oven for about 10 minutes. Remove from the oven, break the haddock up and give everything a good mix, either in a bowl or in the tray. Portion the salad onto plates and scatter with pine nuts.

Combine all the dressing ingredients together in a small bowl and while mixing continuously, pour in the water until you reach a good pouring consistency. Drizzle over the salad before serving.

Note: if you've been good with your carbs for the day, this is epic with some pomegranate seeds scattered over it.



■ **TUCK IN: Warm haddock and cauliflower salad.**



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Grilled halloumi with romero peppers and red onions

SERVES 4

This is a dead simple one to do at a picnic. You could even pre-grill the onions and peppers at home if you wish, or just cook them in situ. If you can't find the long red romero peppers then normal red peppers will do, just quartered.

2 blocks of halloumi, cut into 1cm thick slices

4 romero peppers

2 large red onions, peeled and cut into 1cm thick slices

Vegetable or corn oil for brushing

1-2tbsp pomegranate molasses

A few sprigs of Greek basil (bush basil), to serve

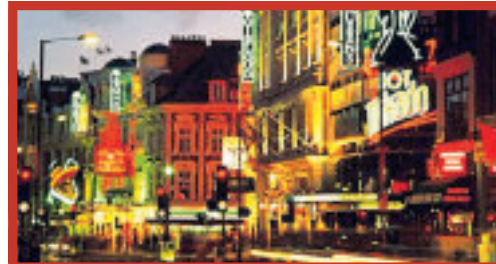
Cook the peppers and onions on the barbecue, turning them every so often for about 4-5 minutes. Be careful turning the onions so they don't fall apart; a fish slice or wide palette knife is best for this.

Once cooked arrange on a serving dish and spoon over a little of the pomegranate molasses.

Lightly brush the halloumi with oil and barbecue for 30 seconds or so on each side. Arrange the cheese on the peppers and onions, spoon a little more molasses over, and scatter the basil on top.



■ **FAMILY FAVOURITE: Grilled halloumi with romero peppers and red onions – made to a recipe by Mark Hix.**



TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

*The entertainment scene
across London*

Guest appearances can be perceptive

Grand Hotel
Southwark Playhouse ****

THE Grand Hotel, Berlin, offers you a warm welcome if you visit the Southwark playhouse over the next few weeks.

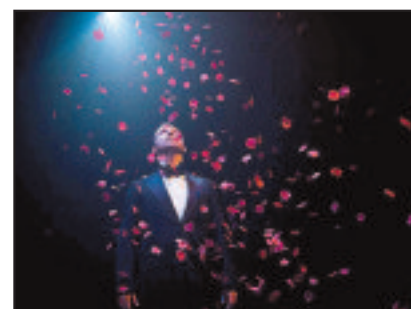
This wonderful new production, set in the late 1920s, an era filled with opulence and burgeoning mistrust in the wake of political turmoil, has been brought to the stage under the much celebrated direction of Thom Sutherland and is set to be another big hit for the theatre which is known as one of the premier off-West End venues.

Right from the first moment, the music and movement captures the essence of the time with some wonderfully straight and stiff choreography by Lee Proud, signifying the two factions in the foyer of the hotel, with staff and guests on opposing sides. The dancing throughout is glorious, with the small staging area filled with energetic charlestons and graceful waltzes.

The plot follows the many colourful and wanton characters who both work and visit this splendid establishment. From an impoverished baron, Scott Garnham, to the washed out yet adored prima ballerina, played by Christine Grimandi, we are invited to share in their lives and many trials.

Garnham plays the debt ridden aristocrat with an air of indolence and it takes a while to establish whether he is someone to be trusted or just a crook out for his own satisfaction. He spends much of the play trying to placate his creditors, forming some quite unbelievable relationships with other hotel occupants, particularly the aged dancer, Elizaveta (Grimandi), who is immediately swept off her feet by the younger man showering her with the attention she has so long craved.

Grimandi is sublime as the silver screen style diva whose long forgotten hey-days are only being kept alive due to the needs of the company's finances and her assistant's thirst that her beloved mistress remains a glorious idol. Played by Valerie Cutko, the unrequited



■ HIGH TIME: Victoria Serra (Flaemmchen), left, main picture, with rest of the cast. Top: Scott Garnham. Above: Christine Grimandi and Garnham Photos Aviv Ron



By NICKY
SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

love of the dresser is very touching and portrayed with both style and fortitude.

This musical has a few lovable underdogs, but most notably the sweaty consumption riddled book keeper Otto, George Rae, who you can't help but love and who adds some much needed light to an otherwise quite dark and at times dry plot. Knowing his demise is im-

minent, Otto seeks to experience life and befriends both the baron and secretary Flaemmchen, Victoria Serra, whose ambition clouds many of her judgments – none more so than with struggling businessman Herman Preysing, whose gradual demise is frighteningly portrayed by Jacob Chapman.

Serra provides the musical highlight of the show in a very powerful performance with her rendition of *Girl in the Mirror*, and shows real stage prowess.

The air of luxury is also lovingly captured through the orchestrations played by an eight-piece band which sounds at times more like a symphony orchestra under the baton of Michael Bradley and expertly hidden in the ceiling.

This a really beautifully staged adaptation which I'm sure will be one of the summer's hot tickets and a must-see for musical theatre fans.

■ Grand Hotel runs until September 5 at the Southwark Playhouse

Arcola double bill a treat for music lovers

INSIDE Intelligence concludes its 20th anniversary season at the Arcola, as part of the Grimeborn Festival, with an exciting double bill – the European premiere of *The Wanton Sublime* by twice Grammy-nominated composer Tarik O'Regan (*Heart of Darkness*) and Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Medium*.

The Wanton Sublime is a ground-breaking electro-acoustic work for

mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble, with a libretto adapted by feminist New York poet Anna Rabinowitz from her eponymous poetry collection.

Considered to be Peter Maxwell Davies' most daring work, *The Medium* is a one-act opera for an unaccompanied singer. Both operas will be sung by Hai-Ting Chinn, who was a lead performer of the 2012–2014 world tour of Philip Glass' and Robert Wilson's

expressionist masterpiece, *Einstein on the Beach*.

Running alongside will be workshops made possible by funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and lead by 2014's X-Factor auditionee Ashley Slater in the hope that contemporary opera will become more accessible to a wider audience. Slater will be teaching young people how to write their own hit songs.

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TALK OF THE TOWN



The entertainment scene across London

london Listings

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. Two bachelor friends, the adorable dandy Algernon Moncrieff and the utterly reliable John Worthing JP, lead double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. The gallants must then grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions, and with the formidable Lady Bracknell. www.importanceofearnest.com

Exhibition of work by artist Irwin Crosthwait at Gray MCA

September 17 to 22
Unseen and rediscovered works by the former Canadian war artist, fashion illustrator and modern painter Irwin 'Bud' Crosthwait (1914 – 1981), will go on sale in an unprecedented selling exhibition by Gray MCA in London this September. The exhibition will present the most extensive selection of works by Crosthwait in 45 years, from across Europe and North America, including many works that have never before been on public view. The exhibition will feature a total of more than 60 original works ranging in price from £350-£10,000. Location: Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street St James's London SW1Y 6BN. Opening hours: Thursday 17 September – 9.30am – 8.00pm; Friday 18 September, Saturday 19 September, Sunday 20 September, Monday 21 September, Tuesday 22 September – 9.30am – 6.30pm

Buckingham Palace summer opening

To September 27th
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces – don't miss the chance to see it. Explore the lavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Poussin, Canaletto and Claude. Sculpture by Canova and Chantrey. Exquisite examples of Sèvres porcelain. Some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.

Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium

To October 10th
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features all of his greatest hits including Fly

Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way. Staged at the West End venue where the legendary entertainer made his 1950 British singing debut, Sinatra: The Man and His Music combines rare and original master recordings with cutting edge technology and never before seen performance footage to celebrate Sinatra's hugely successful music career. Featuring a 24-piece orchestra and a company of 20 dancers, the show takes audiences from Sinatra's formative years to his later life.

London Mela

Sunday September 6
The London Mela, Europe's largest outdoor South Asian festival, returns to Gunnersbury Park, Ealing, with a spectacular line-up of live music, dance, visual arts and food from South Asia. Over 70,000 people enjoyed last year's creative triumph and this year the festival is set to be even bigger and better than ever, with Bollywood, urban and classical music, outdoor arts, dance, fashion, sports, a children's area, Tastes of Asia, the London Mela Bazaar, a giant funfair and a spectacular firework finale!

Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain Part 3 at the Garrick Theatre

To September 5
We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! Will King John be a martyr for the Magna Carta? Party with the Puritans and light up your life with the great fire of London! Clap along with crazy King Charles! Will you see eye to eye with Admiral Nelson? Does the Duke of Wellington get the boot? Vomit with the vile Victorians and make a great escape from the First World War! Starring Neal Foster and Anthony Spargo, it's history with the nasty bits left in! Tickets from £8.75

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre

To October 31
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015. As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state. The Barbican has sold its current allocation of advance tickets. However, small numbers of tickets may be returned or released for advance sale online. Visit hamlet-barbican.com for more details. There are also 30 £10 tickets available as day-seats for sale each day in person. Up to two tickets per person, sold at the advance ticket desk from 10.30am; the Barbican Centre will open from 9am. Returned and late-release tickets may occasionally become available at the last minute on the day of the performance.

Golding classic makes triumphant return

CASTING and full tour dates have been announced for Regent's Park Open Air Theatre's critically acclaimed production of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, which will return following its 2011 sell-out premiere for a limited run from Thursday 3 to Saturday 12 September prior to a major UK tour.

The cast of young actors will feature Freddie Watkins (Nativity) as Jack, Luke Ward-Wilkinson (Wild at Heart, Beautiful People) as Ralph, Anthony Roberts as Piggy, and Keenan Munn-Francis (The

Scottsboro Boys, The Lion King) in the tour which will open at Woking New Victoria Theatre on Wednesday 16 September and continue until March 2016.

After a group of schoolboys survive a plane crash, what starts as a desert island adventure descends into a struggle for survival in a darkly sinister world of superstition and immorality.

First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* was William Golding's debut novel. His other works including *Free Fall*, *The Spire*, *Rites of Passage*

(Booker Prize winner), *The Paper Men* and *Fire Down Below*. In 1983 Golding was awarded The Nobel Prize in Literature.

Lord of the Flies is directed by Timothy Sheader and co-directed by Liam Steel, with design by Jon Bausor, composition and sound score by Nick Powell, lighting design by Paul Keogan and sound design by Avgoustas Psillas for Autograph. *Lord of the Flies* is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.



■ FAMILY FORTUNES: James Fox and son Jack in *Dear Lupin*.

Like father, like son

Dear Lupin ****

I KNEW little about this Roger Mortimer play before I attended its second night performance, other than that it boasted a real father and son as the performers of the two handed offering, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Two-time BAFTA award winner James Fox takes on the character of bumbling upper middle class racing pundit opposite his youngest son Jack in a touching and heart-warming look into the bond between a father and son.

The story follows the pair through the letters which they

have shared over many years and takes us through Charles' (Lupin as nicknamed by his father) life. From school days to maturity we see Lupin's decent into drug and alcohol addiction along with his general melas of loutishness.

The dialogue took some getting going and at times in act one felt a little clunky and not well learned – particularly by the older Fox, who took on an array of characters to assist in the portrayal of the story and seemed more at ease with the ludicrous rather than the ordinary.

Act two took a very different turn, when Lupin travelled and

came to terms with his sexuality, only to be struck down by news that he was HIV positive. This changed the pace and enabled Fox junior to show the pensive and charitable side of this otherwise quite spoiled public school hooray. The father and son interactions, particularly in act two, were very touching, but I did wonder if I would have felt the same had I not known the relationship to be real.

This is, however, very funny and, once it gathers pace, an enthralling play filled with charm and poignancy – which is definitely worth a visit.

Berkoff back with an unlikely dinner guest

STEVEN Berkoff and Shobu Kapoor return to the stage to play opposite Sanjeev Bhaskar in the world premiere of Anthony Horowitz's new play, *Dinner with Saddam*.

The production, directed by Lindsay Posner, opens on 22 September, with previews from September 10, and runs until November 14.

Berkoff, pictured, makes his Menier Chocolate Factory debut as Saddam Hussein. A prolific actor, director and writer, he was most recently on stage in *An Actor's Lament*. His screen work includes *War and Remembrance* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Sobu Kapoor returns to the stage after a five year absence. She is



best known for her leading role as Mrs Khan in the BBC's *Citizen Khan*, and formerly as series regular Gita on *EastEnders*. Sanjeev Bhaskar's work includes creating and performing in *Goodness Gracious Me* and *The Kumars at No.42*, and for the stage *Spamalot* and *Dumb Show*, as well as the lead in the forthcoming major new series for ITV, *Unforgotten*. They are joined by Nathan Amzi, Ian

Goodman and Rebecca Grant. "Saddam, fearful of assassination attempts, was known to move regularly from private home to private home. Even before the war, he declined to spend nights in one of his palaces." So said USA Today, April 20, 2003.

So what happens when Saddam Hussein turns up on your doorstep and announces he is staying for dinner? Political and personal issues are top of the menu, but behind the kitchen door something else far more sinister is cooking...

■ Dinner with Saddam will run at the Menier Chocolate Factory from September 10 to November 14

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TALK OF THE TOWN ★ The entertainment scene across London

Truly powerful 'costume' drama

ALEXANDER McQueen is one of the most celebrated designers of our times, with a sold-out exhibition of some of his most exquisite garments, entitled *Savage Beauty*, wowing visitors at the Victoria and Albert museum proving the point.

A play about the troubled fashion icon – *McQueen* – broke box office records earlier this year when it ran at the St James' studio, starring American TV darling Dianna Agron alongside Stephen Wight in a fantasy tale around London written by James Phillips.

Due to filming commitments, Agron, who received very mixed reviews, will not transfer with the play and the role of Dahlia, a devoted fan, will instead be played by Carley Bawden, best known for playing alongside Catherine Tate in the highly acclaimed Menier Chocolate factory production of *Assassins*.

Wight was critically acclaimed in the role and will now lead the West end transfer of what is expected to be the must see show this autumn. Wight took time out of rehearsals to chat to me about the project and about what it's like to play such a historically important figure to many within the fashion world.

He said: "It's been brilliant to revisit the play, obviously with Dianna being unable to continue forward with the production because of work commitments her side, it's meant the other half of the play has had to be re-explored with Carley Bawden who's our new Dahlia. It's really freshened it up and we're discovering lots of new things which you do when someone new takes over the role."

The play will enjoy a limited run at the glorious Theatre Royal Haymarket and the production team has introduced some changes to the original play in readiness for the West End audiences. I ask Wight what people can expect from this new version and how it will differ for those who loved the St James' version.

"The major change is that we've got an interval in the piece now so in terms of the structure and the emotional journey we had to think about where we leave the audience for their break before we reconvene. There's a few additions but nothing major, just elements that perhaps remind the audience of earlier themes but it's not done as an exposition, it's just done as an extension of themes which were already within the piece."

Alexander McQueen suffered from mental illness up until his suicide in 2010, something that is explored but not exploited in the play. It charts a seemingly chance encounter with an intruder which leads to a fantastical fairytale night around London as the designer desperately searches for inspiration for his next collection.

Playing a real person within a fantastical story must be difficult as there are elements of the real McQueen, known by friends and family by his real Christian name Lee, as well as the character within the fable. Wight tells me how he prepared for this and how he sees his Lee.

"Obviously his blessing and his talent were ultimately his curse. He's an incredibly burdened man because of the brain he's got and the creative genius. That was the core of what I attached things to. His emotions were incredibly dynamic and all over the place but I think that came with the quickness of his mind."

McQueen trained as a Savile Row tailor before gaining a masters degree in fashion. He



By NICKY SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

was later persuaded to change to his middle name, Alexander, by influential stylist Isabella Blow, who is played by the wonderful Tracy-Ann Oberman in the show. The skills he learned in Savile Row gave him a reputation within the fashion world for expert tailoring, something which is explored in my favourite scene in the play which sees McQueen craft a dress onto the expectant Dahlia in a late-night visit to the famed clothing district.

"It was difficult to rehearse because it was a technical exercise which needed to become fantastical and magical. It's being on a whirlwind. Once he's off on his creation it's well documented that he was a genius. Not working necessarily from patterns, just cloth that he could take a pair of scissors to and create amazing garments out of thin air. It was that elegance that we wanted to capture on stage."

Under the tutelage of the show's designer David Farley, Stephen sets to create a work of art within the scene.

"It was a daunting prospect because it would be like playing Michelangelo and trying to do a sculpture on stage. There was a huge pressure attached to that. I'm saying right now I'm going to show you the craft of the

genius rather than the dialogue side of it."

The McQueen family is known to have loved the St James' production and Wight's portrayal, with his sister and nephew both attending the star-studded press night. I ask Stephen if this was an added pressure?

"The only great pressure that mattered to me was the validation from the family and close friends. If they thought I'd done a truthful interpretation, that's all that I really cared about."

During the rehearsal period Wight visited the exhibition many times, finding some motivation from the wonderfully adorned clothing and atmosphere they helped to create.

"When you get into the room of curiosity I think that's pretty close in terms of what it must be like stepping into his (McQueen's) mind. Everywhere you look there's something beautiful. I already knew there was a great pressure but when I saw the creations of his in the flesh, that's when it really struck me. The first time I went in my own and wandered among the crowds. Watching their reaction to his work as well as my own was an incredibly emotional experience. We really did lose a talent far, far too early."

I loved the St James' version and was astounded by Wight's performance. I for one will be first in line for a ticket for the transfer.

■ **McQueen** runs at the Theatre Royal Haymarket from August 27 to November 7



■ **UNDER PRESSURE:** Main picture, left to right: Eloise Hymas, George Hill, Rachel Louisa Maybank, Stephen Wight (seated) as Lee, Jordan Kennedy, Amber Doyle and Sophie Apollonia in *McQueen*. Inset top: Tracy-Ann Oberman as Isabella Blow with Wight. Above: the cast of *McQueen* in full flow.

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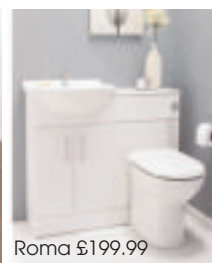
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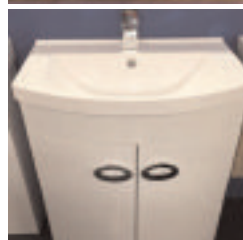
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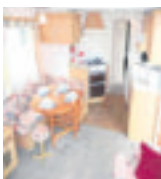
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Conversion of the first and second floor maisonette to use as two self-contained flats (1no. one bedroom flat and 1no. two bedroom flat); erection of a rear dormer roof extension; erection of a side dormer roof extension; erection of a three storey rear extension following the removal of the existing two storey rear addition; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope; and installation of 3no. sash windows in the side elevation at first and second floor levels, 1no. replacement sash window in the side elevation at second floor level, and 2no. replacement sash windows in the rear elevation at first and second floor levels.
4 Glazbury Road London W14 9AS 2015/03221/FUL
Excavation of the rear garden in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of a covered walkway from basement to garden level interlinking with the existing garage in the rear garden; installation of a new pitch roof with rooflights to existing garage; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at the front elevation and insulation of a new door to the side of the garage; conversion of the existing garage into a habitable room.
St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS 2015/03622/FUL
Alterations to the Celis Johnson Building to include bricking up of 2no windows to the eastern elevation, installation of a new air conditioning unit, 2no louvres and the replacement of existing window with doors to the northern elevation at ground floor level; installation of a new roof top plant at roof level; associated external alterations.
105 Rannoch Road London W6 9SY 2015/03742/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope.
34 Bassein Park Road London W12 9RZ 2015/03733/FUL
Lowering the floor level of the existing basement and enlargement of the front and rear lightwells; formation of new external steps from basement to garden level at the rear of the property.
2 - 4 Peterborough Mews London SW6 3BL 2015/03549/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; alterations to the pitch roof of first floor level to form a flat roof; installation of new windows and glass balustrades to replace the existing windows at first floor level, installation of new doors and windows at ground floor level to replace the existing and the formation of a bin store to the front elevation.
56 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PH 2015/03403/FUL
Change of use of the basement and part of ground floor from retail (Class A1) to residential (Class C3); erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope and 3no rooflights over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of a door to replace the existing window, alteration to the roof of back addition to incorporate a flat roof and the erection of privacy screen around flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; demolition of single storey outbuildings and fish pool, erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; installation of a window to replace the existing door at ground floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of the basement, rear part of the ground floor, first floor, second floor and third floor level into 1 x two bedroom and 2 x three bedroom self-contained flats.
5 Poplar Mews London W12 7JS 2015/00232/FUL
Change of use from B1 studio and office space and B8 storage to three live/work units with associated extensions and alterations at roof level and formation of a terrace (Revised drawings).
Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH 2015/03640/FUL
Erection of rear extensions including the formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level; replacement of existing window with a new window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; conversion of first and second floor level into 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.
192 King Street London W6 0RA 2015/03051/ADV
Display of an externally illuminated fascia sign to the front elevation.
89 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LR 2015/02680/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

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Cambridge School 61 Bryony Road London W12 0SP 2015/03647/FR3
Enclosing of the existing covered walkway to include erection of a new wall with doors and windows.
7 - 9 Ashchurch Terrace London W12 9SL 2015/03637/FR3
Replacement of existing Crittall single glazed windows with new double glazed tilt out and opening casement windows.
Plane Tree Court 61 Brook Green London W6 7BE 2015/03696/FR3
Replacement of existing single glazed timber and aluminium windows to all elevations with double glazed casement and inward tilt and turn brown PVCu windows; replacement of existing single glazed rear doors to individual flats with new double glazed brown PVCu doors.
101 - 131 Rainville Court Rainville Road London W6 9HJ 2015/03699/FR3
Replacement of existing single glazed windows and doors with new brown calibre system PVCu double glazed casement units.
3 Hurlingham Gardens London SW6 3PL 2015/03768/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of a dormer window in the front roofslope; installation of a new sky lantern and 2no solar panels over the main flat roof at roof level and installation of 4no solar panels over the roof of second floor rear back addition; bricking up of existing window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; installation of a new door and windows to replace the existing at ground floor level to the side elevation; alterations to the roof of single storey back addition to include raising part of the flat roof to form a pitch roof and installation of new rooflights in the side roofslope.
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
109 The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LZ 2015/02550/LBC
Removal of a non-load bearing blockwork partition wall and integral cupboard between existing kitchen and living room to create an open plan lounge and kitchen.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS 2015/03622/FUL
Alterations to the Celis Johnson Building to include bricking up of 2no windows to the eastern elevation, installation of a new air conditioning unit, 2no louvres and the replacement of existing window with doors to the northern elevation at ground floor level; installation of a new roof top plant at roof level; associated external alterations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 4th September 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Kings Court Mansions 739 Fulham Road London SW6 5LS 2015/02925/FUL
I give notice that Gail's Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Use of part of the public highway for the placing of 50 benches and 15no tables along Apple Road elevation.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 4th September 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

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Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.

2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

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6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

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Salary depending on experience.

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Cappagh Group of Companies are looking for

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Why Austin has to leave QPR

CHARLIE Austin was credited with QPR's second goal against Cardiff City on Saturday – but I will be amazed if he stays around long enough to score another in blue-and-white hoops.

With less than two weeks left until the summer transfer window closes on September 1, it is clear that Austin's immediate future lies away from Loftus Road.

And here's why:

■ He proved himself as one of the best English strikers in the Premier League last season with 18 goals. If he can achieve that tally in a struggling team that finished bottom of the table, he could do even better leading the line for a top flight side of more proven quality, so why drop back into the Championship? Loyalty? Sorry, and sadly, that quality no longer exists in modern football.

■ At 26, he needs to be playing in the Premier League, building on the form that earned him an England call-up last spring. Spending another season back in the second tier will only have an adverse effect on his career.

■ Money. Frankly, even with parachute payments from the Premier League and talk that the Financial Fair Play penalty hanging over them will be conveniently brushed under the carpet by the powers that be, QPR still need to slash their wage bill. Austin is by far and away their biggest asset – and they need to cash in on him.

■ If QPR can hold out for a fee somewhere close to their £15m valuation for Austin, they need to sell him in order to reinvest some of those millions in other areas of the squad where they are deficient. Saturday's 2-2 home draw against an average Cardiff side showed how tough it's going to be to gain promotion from a league known more for scrappy endeavour than measured quality.

■ The desperation of Premier League clubs. A few defeats and trigger-happy chairman/owners

will be reaching for the panic button. Already there are a number of teams in the top division who would benefit from Austin's proven scoring pedigree – and £15m or thereabouts is a risk worth taking compared to the unthinkable alternative of relegation.

While Austin's impending transfer is a no-brainer for all parties concerned, I'd be equally surprised if goalkeeper Robert Green decides to leave Loftus Road just to sit on the bench at one of the Premier League clubs he has recently been linked with, including a possible return to West Ham United.

So what if they offer him more money than QPR are to try and keep him? Does he really need it? At 35, surely what Green needs most is to be playing every week, ending each week's training with a meaningful first team match, not warming the bench on match days simply to pocket a bigger pay packet.

Green, who receives an estimated £50k-a-week in wages, has one year left on his contract at QPR and turned down a move to Chelsea earlier this summer.

But while R's would dearly like to further ease their hefty wage bill, they will not find it easy to replace the former England keeper with another goalie of such proven quality, despite Green's iffy performance in the opening day 2-0 defeat at Charlton.

■ QPR head coach Chris Ramsey bemoaned his side's "poor game management" as R's let a two-goal lead slip against Cardiff City.

Rangers led through goals from Clint Hill and Charlie Austin, only for Sean Morrison to pull one back, before Scott Malone struck a stunning, long-range



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald



■ CLINT Hill scored R's first goal against Cardiff and made the second. Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

equaliser in stoppage-time.

A draw was probably a fair result, especially given the fact that R's second goal went in off Austin after the ball had been diverted on to him from the arm of team-mate Hill, who was blind side of the referee in a crowded penalty area.

"It's very disappointing from the point of the view that I thought we had the game won," said Ramsey.

"We've been very soft in the way we've conceded the two goals, although to be fair to them, their equaliser is an unbelievable strike.

"From our point of view, though, we've got to learn to manage the game more effectively. To come away with only a point is very disappointing."

A minute before being substituted, Austin was unfortunate to see his goal-bound effort

deflected off the line and onto the post via the shin of a Cardiff defender,

although Matt Phillips and Jay Emmanuel-Thomas both squandered good chances in the last 10 minutes.

He added: "I think we had enough opportunities to win the game well before that. We should have been out of sight.

"You have to score those chances, or at least one of them. The game would have been over.

"To be fair to Cardiff, they got the ball and did very well. When they're in their flow, you have to allow them to do that.

"But I thought we threatened their goal a lot more than they did ours. When you create chances, you've got to take them."

This, Chris, is the harsh reality of the Championship, where clinical finishing is almost rarer than a logical explanation by Jose Mourinho for a 3-0 Chelsea defeat.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, August 22
FULHAM v Huddersfield Town, 3.00

QPR v Rotherham United, 3.00

Sunday, August 23
West Bromwich Albion v CHELSEA (live on Sky Sports), 1.30

Tuesday, August 25
FULHAM v Sheffield United (Capital One Cup 2R), 7.45
QPR v Carlisle United (Capital One Cup 2R), 7.45

■ SURREY virtually confirmed promotion back to the top sphere of the LV = County Championship with a stunning three-wicket victory in Essex that moved them to within 10 points of leaders Lancashire at the top of the second division table.

By declaring on 289 for 9 in their second innings, Essex hoped to force a last-day win at Colchester but their gamble backfired.

Instead, it was Surrey's not out wicketkeeper-batsman Gary Wilson and skipper Gareth Barry who ultimately steered the visitors to their victory target at Castle Park.

Coming in with just four runs to get from 19 balls remaining, Barry hit Panesar to the boundary off the first ball of the 80th over as Surrey achieved the win with 314 for the loss of seven wickets.

Earlier, Rory Burns had spearheaded the batting attack with 158 in the first innings and followed it with 71 in the second, with the more workmanlike Arun Harinath also contributing a vital 87.

Burns and Zafar Ansari got the visitors off to a solid start by putting on 95 runs for the first wicket, while the fourth and fifth wicket stands of 72 and 92, between Jason Roy and Harinath and Harinath and Wilson respectively, were equally important against Essex's spin bowlers.

Surrey go into their next second division Championship match, against Gloucestershire at Bristol tomorrow (Friday), locked together with league leaders Lancashire on almost identical records. With four Championship fixtures each left to play, both counties have a 7-1-4 win-loss-draw record, although Lancs have a slightly superior batting and bowling points tally.

While winning Division Two would cap a good season, the most important factor is that Surrey are now 54 points clear of third-placed Glamorgan and all but assured of promotion as runners-up.

■ A SOLID team performance with bat and ball saw Middlesex beat Sussex by 20 runs in a Championship thriller at Lord's that took them to second in the first division table, behind undefeated leaders Yorkshire.

We mentioned last week how Dawid Malan's outstanding scores of 93 and 120 not out had put Middlesex – who won the toss and elected to bat – in a very healthy position.

But it was Tim Murtagh, picking up his 500th first-class wicket for the county in his benefit year, who bowled the match-winning ball on the fourth day of an absorbing game.

Sussex wicketkeeper Brown had advanced to a top-score of 68 when he was caught by James Franklin off the bowling of Murtagh in the 70th over of the visitors' second innings.

Murtagh's fellow bowlers James Harris (four



Surrey are almost back in big-time



■ DAWID Malan was outstanding for Middlesex. Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

wickets), Toby Roland-Jones (three), Ravi Patel (one) and the wicket-less Ollie Rayner all bowled economically to restrict Sussex to 245 all out, having previously dismissed them for 300 in the first innings.

Middlesex, who have lost just once but drawn six in 12 four-day matches this season, begin their next Championship match tomorrow (Fri) against Durham at Chester-le-Street.

Mourinho defends Terry switch

■ Continued from p28

MUCH of the media focus after the clash of these two Premier League heavyweights centred around Jose Mourinho's controversial decision to replace his skipper, John Terry, at half-time with young Kurt Zouma.

Mourinho tried to avoid any potential criticism of Terry, focusing instead on the attributes of the young Frenchman.

"Zouma is the fastest player I have in my defensive line, so when you are going to play with a high block, you have to ask your players to bring the defensive line up and the fastest player has to be on the pitch.

"I had to make a choice between John Boas or Roberto Di Matteo – the managers who did not play him," he said.

Pressed further to explain his decision, Mourinho reiterated: "The objective was not to bring John off, it was to bring Zouma in, because I wanted my fastest player on the pitch. I know that City were going to play on the counter-attack and play long balls to Aguero. And I know I wanted my team to be dominant and play in the opposition's half."

Continuing his defence of his skipper, Mourinho then tried to shift the focus away from him and onto the Chelsea managers who preceded his return to SW6 two seasons ago.

"I don't know if journalists asked too

many questions of Rafa Benitez, Andre Villas-Boas or Roberto Di Matteo – the managers who did not play him," he said.

"I am the one you should not ask about John. I am the one that played John every game, who made him captain. I recovered John from a difficult situation with other managers. I am the one who has the right to look at the game and say: 'I want Zouma on the pitch'.

"When, in the 35th minute, I am on the touchline and thinking and trying to anticipate what am I going to say to the players at half-time, what I'm going to ask of them, I know Zouma has to play. I then have to decide who

to bring out. I decided on my captain."

But Terry took the decision to 'bench' him in a professional way.

Mourinho explained: "I can tell you that when I told him, he was not having a bad reaction either. He did what everyone does. The manager says this guy comes in and this guy comes out. He waited for the team to go out, then had a shower and changed and went into the bench. It was normal."

Mourinho is nothing if not optimistic and when asked if he could still win the title with this group of players, his one word response was simply "Yes."

Paul Lagan

SPORT

Thursday, August 20th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Ivanovic is facing axe

BRANISLAV Ivanovic is facing the axe from the Chelsea starting line-up at West Bromwich Albion on Sunday following indifferent form this season, in particular his disastrous performance in the 3-0 defeat at Manchester City.

The Serbia defender signed for the Blues in a £9m deal from Lokomotiv Moscow in 2008 and has featured in all the club's league and cup glory.

But the 31-year-old is now under severe pressure to retain his right-back slot.

The expected arrival this week of Baba Rahman from German Bundesliga club Augsburg means that he will initially battle with Spain defender Cesar Azpilicueta for the left-back position.

If the 21-year-old Ghana international ousts Azpilicueta, it will probably be because Jose Mourinho has decided he has had enough of Ivanovic and will move Azpilicueta to his more natural right-back berth.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Rahman confirmed that he will be a Chelsea player, despite not quite having put pen to paper before LWN went to press on Monday. He said: "I'm happy to sign for one of the biggest clubs in the world."

Rahman joined Augsburg from fellow Germans SpVgg Greuther Furth in August 2014 and made 31 appearances for the Bavarian side last season.

Although Rahman's fee is expected to be officially undisclosed, it will be close to £9m.

Torn apart

The urgent need for competition for places in defence has never been greater. After Ivanovic was yellow-carded against Manchester City on Sunday, he was torn apart by City's early onslaught.

He was at fault for the second goal, which effectively ended the match, when he allowed Vincent Kompany to get the jump on him to score from a glancing header

following a corner.

He was even more culpable for the third City goal, when he passed directly to Fernandinho just outside his own area. The midfielder took delight in the gift and rammed home the final goal of the game.

Ivanovic's ageing legs were also put to the test by the pacy Raheem Sterling, whose repeated bursts to the byline created problems for the retreating Chelsea back four.

Mourinho confirmed Rahman could be in contention to face West Brom at The Hawthorns on Sunday. He said: "I don't know if he has signed yet. But I know we were working on that deal and that we are very close. He has had a medical already but I don't have the OK that he has signed yet."

"It's important we sign him because he is a left-back. He can compete with Azpilicueta, who in turn, because he is a right-back too, can compete with Ivanovic for the right-back position. So this player replaces Felipe Luis, who returned to Atletico Madrid in the summer and we need to restore that balance in the squad."

Mourinho refuted claims by Manchester City boss

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE



Manuel Pellegrini that his side were deserved winners who could have won by a clearer margin.

"The result was unfair," suggested Mourinho. "In the first half, the best team was winning. In the second half, the best team was Chelsea."

"We did not score but when it was still 1-0 in the second half, if you felt they would score two goals despite that we were on top, you would say that was unfair."

"They were in control in the first half, created chances but we were also very comfortable. But defensively, we were quite fragile."

"In the second half, I think everything changed. We brought our defensive line into the midfield line, we pressed them and controlled them and had chances in the spaces we created."

"City could not cope with that. I don't think anybody will misunderstand me if I say, in my opinion, we played well. They felt the danger from us. They made their first change to get back control of the game and the second one was a defensive one. Everyone knows at that moment that 1-0 is the result they want to keep, and they were finding it a trouble to keep."

"So the second goal is completely out of context. But it was our mistake and we were punished for that, and the third goal which was also our mistake. We could not capitalise in the second half."

Was Mourinho concerned about the performance of his defence?

"You can't compare this game with the previous one against Swansea. I don't like to speak just about the defence, but all the players."

"But yes, when the game started and 10 seconds later you have Aguero behind our defensive line and straight onto Begovic, that was due to our fragility – but that's football."

"I changed the defensive line to push further up. We played in their half. They created nothing, no long balls, everything was under control."

Mourinho refused to accept that Blues' start to the season – they have not won a game, even in pre-season – is a consequence of a poor defence. Asmir Begovic had to pull off three fine saves in the first half to deny a rampant City attack.

"Against Arsenal in the Community Shield they were better than us in the defensive area – no problem, they scored a beautiful goal. But I did not see any problems defensively against Swansea," he said.

"They had a penalty and with 10-men we defended very well, too. And against City, in the second half, we controlled the game."

Asked if that was the worst 45 minutes of his Chelsea career from a defensive point of view, Mourinho paused to consider and said: "Defensively? I don't know. But we were poor in the first half."

■ **MOURINHO DEFENDS TERRY DECISION**
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■ **UNDER pressure, Branislav Ivanovic in recent action at Stamford Bridge** Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham pay the penalty

THE poor defending that cost Fulham so dearly last season came back to haunt them again in Saturday's 2-1 home defeat by Brighton.

Sam Baldock looked like he was enjoying a stroll in nearby Bishops Park as he moved beyond static Whites' central defender Nikolay Bodurov and on to a low, harmless-looking cross to open the scoring on the half-hour mark.

Tom Cairney celebrated his home debut for Whites by equalising with an exquisite left-foot finish that curled in off the crossbar to make it 1-1 just before half time.

But then Fulham shot themselves in the foot again. In the third minute of time added on and with the game heading for a draw, Shaun Hutchinson recklessly chopped Kazenga LuaLua down on the 18-yard line, enabling Tomer Hemed to calmly grab the winner from the penalty spot.

"I've got no argument with the award of the penalty but I'm not very happy with the defending to give it away," said Fulham manager Kit Symons.

"Hutch knows it was a rash challenge that we didn't need at that stage of the game. LuaLua had toed it away and it was going out for a goal-kick. It's hard to stop yourself once you're committed but it wasn't what we needed."

After a disappointing first-half display, Fulham were much improved in the second 45 minutes.

"First half we were poor, they were the better team," agreed Symons. "We rode our luck and were lucky to go in at 1-1 but, arguably, we could have gone in at 2-1, because Matty (Smith) hit the post in the dying embers of the first half."

"I told the players we needed to

up the tempo and buck up our ideas and in the second half it looked like we were the only team who were going to win it. They made their changes to try and shore it up for a point and we got caught with a classic sucker punch. Two defensive mistakes led to the two goals.

Get going

"The fans haven't had an awful lot to cheer about for the last few years now but you could really feel them start to get going in the second half as we were building momentum. They were getting right behind us. I'd have been disappointed coming off with a draw, so to lose it..."

While Symons bemoaned poor defending, it has to be said that Smith might have had a hat-trick but for wayward finishing with his head.

Asked what the latest was on the

transfer front, Symons replied: "We're very close to a couple but until they're done I won't name names. We're very, very close to one and hopefully close to another as well."

"We're looking at several players at the moment. We're looking to strengthen in areas I feel need strengthening."

After last night's visit to Hull City, Fulham have back-to-back home games against Huddersfield Town on Saturday, followed by Sheffield United in the Capital One Cup next Tuesday.

■ **ON a brighter note, Ross McCormack, last season's top scorer following his £11m move from Leeds United, has signed a one-year contract extension to stay at Craven Cottage until the summer of 2019.**

Goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli, 23, has signed a new four-year deal.